



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

November 4, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 287 739 468 042

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Phone Conference ID: 971 459 359#

AGENDA

- 5:30 p.m. Welcome & Introductions – Helen Rollins, Chair**
- 5:32 p.m. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**
- July 29, 2024
 - September 4, 2024
- 5:35 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC, Dave Dixon, MORPC**
- Transit Agency Reports
 - Delaware County Transit – Andy Volenik, Delaware County Transit
 - COTA Update – Kenny Ganter, COTA
- 6:05 p.m. Informational Items**
- Attributable Funding Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- Mobility Management Update – Emma Strange, MORPC

6:20 p.m. Other Business

- Membership Updates – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- Nominating Committee Report/Election of Officers
- Roundtable Discussion

7:00 p.m. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY CHUCK RATLIFF AT 614.233.4115 OR EMAIL cratliff@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

**The next CAC meeting is
December 2, at 5:30 p.m.**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **Monday, July 29, 2024**
Time: **5:30 p.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Barton, Tiarra (online)	Howard, Quincy	Rist, John
Beltran, Hugo (online)	Ilmi, Naima	Rollins, Helen
Bohnert, Eli (online)	May, Eric	Synk, Erin
Dorsey, Dana (online)	McNish, Timothy	Watson, Lonnie
Esterly, John	Muenster, Kristen	Weiss, Ira (online)
Girves, Catherine	Needleman, William	

Guests

Ganter, Kenny	Slack, Thom	Risko, Michele
Martin, Tyrone		

MORPC Staff

Bumgardner, April	Hampton, Ralonda	Roy-Dixon, Padmini (online)
Diaz-Hernandez, Mauro	Oldroyd, Shelby	Schaper, Maria
Dixon, Dave	Peggau, Karina (online)	Vonstein, Melinda
Gill, Nick	Petrov, Jordan	
Graham, Tom (online)	Rice, Sam (online)	

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Rollins asked for a motion to approve the June 2024 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Rist moved; Mr. Watson seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Nick Gill & Dave Dixon, MORPC

- Mr. Gill let the committee know about the Safe Streets Central Ohio 2024 event that would be happening on September 26, 2024, at the Wigwam Event Center in Pickerington Ohio. The event will feature local and national experts on various aspects of the Safe System Approach and offer technical sessions, a workshop, as well as opportunities for networking with colleagues and traffic safety partners. More information is available on MORPC's website.
- Mr. Gill then updated the committee on LinkUs messaging and the ballot initiative. There is new messaging available, as LinkUs is not specifically referenced on the ballot, but is focused on COTA moving forward. A big part of the LinkUs initiative is expanding COTA service, but also includes transit supportive infrastructure – more

sidewalks, bikeways, and trails. There will be a number of Town Hall meetings for the community to learn more about the COTA Ballot Initiative. Moving on, Mr. Gill spoke about Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD). A major component of the LinkUs initiative is to help make housing more affordable and have greater diversity in all housing price points in Central Ohio. There are two ETOD subcommittees in the LinkUs Initiative: Housing and Finance. The Housing Subcommittee has helped to incentivize affordable housing to create mixed income developments; allows tenants and/or non-profits the first right of refusal when units are sold; and helps diversify the housing market to provide a wide variety of housing sizes, accessibility, and rental/home ownership options at all price points. The finance subcommittee is establishing goals to promote housing diversity by encouraging private sector development around transit stations; establishing an incentive package; removing barriers to more dense development; assisting with supply opportunities along the corridors for developers of all sizes; and further engaging non-governmental organizations to assist with this effort.

- Upcoming ETOD meetings will be held for the Financial subcommittee on August 30, 2024 and the ETOD Advisory Group on September 4, 2024 at the Columbus Main Library from 10 a.m. to noon.
- One of the main policy shifts is to move away from using Transit Supported Infrastructure (TSI) in messaging and refer to sidewalks, bikeways, and trails. A draft program of projects was released on Thursday, July 25, 2024. At a media event in Gahanna it was unveiled that more than \$250 million in projects would be the first implemented over five years after the passage of the levy. This \$250 million includes 83 total projects over 35 jurisdictions, with 150 plus miles of new facilities.
- There is currently a public comment period happening for these identified projects. A story map, created by the MORPC team, is available online to understand more about these projects. Suburban toolkits are also available to highlight the partnerships with local communities. There are 30-second videos for twelve of the local communities. Local one-pagers are also being created to outline how the LinkUs Initiative will be beneficial to the communities. More information will be available on MORPC's website as they are created.
- Mr. Gill let the committee know that in the coming months, the committee would see a variety of presentations continuing to promote and discuss the LinkUs initiative. Mr. Gill asked the committee to inform staff if there are any certain aspects of the initiative that members would like to learn more about or focus on in coming meetings.
- Mr. Rist asked if there would be an opportunity for committee members to do a tour of the two alignments that will be the first created to better visualize the changes being proposed. Mr. Gill answered that yes, there is an augmented reality tour available and that MORPC would look in to setting up a time for the Advisory Committee to participate.
- Mr. Dixon continued the MPO report, discussing the upcoming Summit on Sustainability. The event, held annually, is Central Ohio's Sustainability Conference of the year. It will be held on October 29, 2024 at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. Keynote speaker and registration information will be available soon. The event will feature a full day of programming highlighting sustainability best practices and there will be a variety of breakout sessions on cross-sectional topics. In 2023 there were around 600 or 700 attendees.
- Mr. Diaz-Hernandez provided an update on Air Quality in Central Ohio. Mr. Diaz-Hernandez encouraged the committee members to sign up for air quality alerts that

MORPC issues. These alerts cover Delaware, Franklin, Fairfield, and Licking counties. There have already been two alerts issued this year. Mr. Diaz-Hernandez then spoke about the Community Led Enhanced Air Network (CLEAN) Project that MORPC is running, in conjunction with Franklin County Public Health. The program is a community led program, funded by the EPA. Fifty-nine sensors will be set up throughout the county. MORPC will be doing community outreach and engagement throughout the next several months.

- Mr. Gill then presented an update for Delaware County Transit (DCT). They have expanded their service hours to 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday thru Friday; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. DCT has seen an additional 1000 trips during the week and 800 on Saturday with the expanded service hours. A new flex zone in Sunbury and portions of Galena and Berkshire Township will be starting in October. This is DCT's first flex zone and they have received some funding from ODOT. Currently, DCT has done almost 71,000 trips this year, outpacing 2023 trips by 20%.
- Chair Rollins had a question about the Air Quality that she was hopeful could be addressed in the future. Chair Rollins how air quality goals are impacted when we see lane widenings, highway and byway additions, and increased vehicle movement? She commented that she understands COTA is moving toward an all electric fleet, but wondered how air quality overall was being accounted for with these additions.
- Mr. Ganter provided updates for COTA. He started with a few staffing updates. Garth Weithman has been named Deputy CEO directly under Monica Tellez-Fowler. Tanya Salyers has been named the new Deputy Chief of Staff. Mr. Ganter then gave a run-down of the entire leadership team at COTA.
- Mr. Ganter then went on to discuss grant that COTA was recently awarded by the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). COTA received \$22.8 million for clean hydrogen fuel cell buses. The FTA awarded this grant while visiting COTA on July 10, 2024. There will be ten of these new buses added to the fleet and a new hydrogen fueling station will be constructed at the McKinley Operations Center with the funding. Currently, COTA has 24 electric buses and is on track to have 26 by the end of the year. These initiatives will help COTA to achieve their goal to transition to a zero emissions bus fleet by 2035 and achieve net zero carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Mr. Ganter mentioned the LinkUs Town Halls that would be held throughout the region in cooperation with MORPC, the City of Columbus, and Franklin County.
- Mr. Ganter then reviewed upcoming schedule adjustments for service routes. Most of the adjustments are minor. They will help to improve on time performance. Looking at ridership numbers, for the time period from July 25, 2023 to July 23, 2024 there were 10,707,011 boardings. During the same time period from 2022 to 2023, there were 10,242,171 boardings. This was an increase in 464,840 boardings or 4.5%. If this trend continues, COTA will be on track to have over 10 to 11 million boardings for 2024.
- Mr. Howard asked if any of the funding that had been received from the FTA Grant was going to go toward paratransit vehicles? Mr. Ganter replied that through the LinkUs initiative some of the money would be distributed to paratransit and COTA Plus.

IV. ODOT District 6 Update – Michele Risko & Thom Slack, ODOT District 6

- Mr. Slack introduced himself to the committee. He then took a moment to introduce Ms. Risko, the new Local Programs Manager. Mr. Slack explained that District 6

- includes eight Central Ohio Counties, including Franklin & Delaware, and a large portion of MORPC's membership area.
- Ms. Risko started the presentation by stating that she intended to highlight some significant projects that are going on in the region. The first update, and the largest, is the 70/71 Downtown Ramp Up project, which is a series of projects that will redo the interchange downtown. The goal is to improve safety and reduce congestion downtown by reducing the weaving and lane changes that happen in the area. There are also a number of bridge replacements that will be wider to accommodate pedestrian traffic and assist with reconnecting communities. The construction is in phase 2. This phase includes a new fly-over ramp, a new eastbound ramp, and will also include improvements to some city streets. Ms. Risko showed a rendering of the improvements.
 - Mr. May asked about the bridge replacements from downtown into the German Village, and when ODOT expected them to be done.
 - Mr. Slack confirmed that Mr. May was asking about the 3rd, 4th, High, and Front Street Bridges. Mr. Slack stated that the work will not start on High Street until after the Front Street bridge is completed. Then there might be some overlap with the bridge construction on either 3rd or 4th street, but one of those would always be open. Mr. Slack noted that these bridges will take most of the rest of the decade to complete.
 - Mr. May then asked what considerations were being made for safety with the new bridge and road at 3rd Street. Mr. Slack responded that ODOT was working with the City of Columbus to address safety concerns for the area. Mr. May then asked about bike riders on the bridges and commented that the current layout over the bridges was not very friendly to bicyclists. Mr. Slack answered that one of the features that was being integrated downtown is the increased vertical walls. There will also no longer be no ramp on 3rd Street when all of this is done. All of the ramps have been move to Washington and Short Streets.
 - Ms. Risko then moved on to discuss the Far East Freeway project. This is a series of projects that will address the growing regional travel demand between downtown Columbus and the eastern suburbs. The project is currently in phase one of four.
 - Mr. Watson had a question about the ramps that exist at Main Street before you get to the 70 East ramp. It is a hazardous ramp for people trying to exit from 270 onto Main Street, as well as for cars trying to enter onto 270 South from Main Street going East. He wanted to know if this was a part of their study area and if it would be looked at for some kind of safety improvement. Mr. Slack answered.
 - Ms. Risko went on to discuss the second phase of the project, anticipated to start in 2025.
 - Mr. Howard had a question if the 270 to 70 West ramp would still be a big circle or if that would be going away. Mr. Slack answered.
 - Ms. Risko moved on to the State Route 161 project, on the East side of Columbus from 270 to Route 62. It is a widening project to widen to three lanes in each direction and started last summer. It is expected to end in the summer of 2025. It will also include widening the ramps from State Route 161 West to 270 North.
 - Mr. Rist asked about the status of ODOT's study to develop a high-capacity transit corridor in the area described in the previous project. Mr. Slack answered that the study was being handled through ODOT's Central Office. The workforce and economic study had been done. Ms. Schaper then answered that ODOT had completed a study with a consultant looking at Central Ohio workforce transit and how to connect, and the options to connect, the workforce between the employment

- centers in Newark, Etna, Pataskala, and the New Albany Business Park to further into Central Ohio – specifically within the 270 corridor. There were recommendations made and the next step is ODOT awarded COTA \$2 million to study the East West Corridor. This would look from Dublin to New Albany. This will be a feasibility study. In August, COTA will be holding a scoping meeting where they will invite stakeholders and representatives from local governments to brainstorm what the scope should include and what the considerations are that should be included in the study. The meeting is going to be held on August 15, 2024 here at MORPC, with COTA facilitating.
- Ms. Risko moved on to the next project for the region, the 270/US 23 Rathmell Road interchange. This will reconfigure the interchange on the south side loop. It will eliminate two loop ramps and add a third lane on US 23 North from Rathmell Road to 270.
 - Ms. Girves had a question about the bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the project. Mr. Slack answered.
 - Ms. Risko continued with the Courtright Road Bridge Project. This bridge is currently closed but will reopen sometime this year. The project is for a bridge deck replacement. It will be wider. Mr. Watson asked if there would be a bike lane on this bridge. Ms. Risko responded that ODOT is working with the City of Columbus on a pedestrian facility.
 - Ms. Girves mentioned that it is often seen that during the winter, on these bridges, the bicycle/pedestrian facilities, they end up being snow storage in the winter. However, people still use those facilities during the winter. Mr. Slack responded, that while he couldn't speak for the City of Columbus, as these are city streets and it is their maintenance and removal on the bridges, he could say that ODOT has been working with the City to show the same importance for these facilities as on roadways.
 - Ms. Risko moved on to the next projects, bridge replacements at Gantz Road and MCComb Road, both over 270. These are both deck replacements and will include the shared use path. These are collaborations as well, with the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and also Grove City. The pedestrian facilities and the street improvements will be under contract this year. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.
 - Mr. Quincy asked why these bridges showed a shared use path and the previous project was only for a pedestrian path. Ms. Risko explained that it was due to the sizing of the bridge. For Courtright Bridge, the project is replacing the concrete bridge deck, the steel is staying. With these two projects, there will be an extra beam line added, that will allow for the space needed for a shared-use path. He also explained that there was additional funding involved in the southside projects, with safety money. Mr. Gill explained that there was no MORPC money in the projects, but Grove City had been particularly aggressive in seeking to have this as a shared use facility versus a pedestrian facility.
 - Ms. Synk had a question about the breakdown of MORPC funds and local funds that were being used for these projects. In particular, she wanted to know if this is local money that is funding the bike & pedestrian portions of the improvements. Mr. Slack answered that he did not have that information in front of him, but that he would get back to the committee with that information.
 - Mr. Needleman had a question on how often ODOT analyzes and updates their methods for evaluation, approval processes, implementation, and execution for projects. Ms. Risko answered that as an engineer, she especially appreciates the

idea to keep improving process times. In regards to environmental processes, they have made some adjustments. For the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assignments, ODOT has been able to become an approver. So they do not have to go through a round of federal approvals. However, there are other aspects that require minimum amounts of time, for eminent domain for example, which cannot be expedited. However, this continues to be something that ODOT continually looks at and tries to improve the amount of time a project takes to get through implementation.

- Mr. Gill asked if ODOT could comment on the number of projects that ODOT would like to do versus the amount of money that's available to do them all. Mr. Slack responded that it is tough to say as they only have a billion dollars worth of projects open right now. ODOT always gets more requests than there is funding available, so there are hard decisions that have to be made and work to pick the best projects that can be delivered the most efficiently.
- Ms. Girves commented that it would be helpful for the committee to know the percentage of funds that go toward people who are not driving. Ms. Risko commented that they are seeing a huge increase in the amount of bike/pedestrian projects that ODOT is doing. She said she would look for some more information with actual statistics for the next meeting.
- Mr. Slack finished by mentioning the Route 23 Connect Study, which ODOT will be hosting public meetings for, starting the second week of August.

V. Informational Items

- **Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Applications & MPO Prioritization Process** – Shelby Oldroyd, MORPC
 - Ms. Oldroyd began by explaining that she would be giving a brief update on the TRAC, what the program is, and how MORPC plays a role in the process. The TRAC is responsible for committing ODOT funding through the major new capacity program. Projects that receive funding for this must have a cost over \$12 million, increase capacity or reduce congestion and support economic development and job creation. The TRAC is also responsible for evaluating these projects, however, they also ask for MORPC to give their local priorities.
 - As a part in the process, MORPC evaluates the projects and gives a prioritization recommendation to the TRAC. Statewide there were 28 applications received. Five of those were in the MORPC MPO area. Those included: I-71 HSR/Smart Lane; 1-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchange; US 33 Southeast Corridor; SR 315 North Knot; and the Dublin Emerald Connector. All total, those projects requested \$265 million to advance major capital projects. Most of the funding is for construction phase and three already have some kind of TRAC Funding. These projects are one way that the newly adopted MTP is put in to place. The projects are evaluated based on the MTP goals, which use a mixture of quantitative and qualitative measures to evaluate.
 - Information sheets are available on the MORPC website. After the projects are analyzed they go through the public comment period, which is currently ongoing for these projects. The public comments are worked into the prioritization process and that helps staff finalize evaluations, and then recommendations will be brought to the Community Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and the MORPC Commission for their recommendations. There will be a resolution which will go to the TRAC for

MORPC's prioritization. TRAC then makes the ultimate decision in which projects get funding.

- Mr. May commented that most of the projects appear to be highway related. He asked what the normal process is, if a local government wants to submit a sidewalk project – is the TRAC the right place for that project. Ms. Oldroyd responded that since projects for TRAC need to be at least \$12 million, those local pedestrian projects would more than likely be ineligible.
- **Technical Assistance Program Update** – Jordan Petrov, MORPC
 - Mr. Petrov started by explaining that the Technical Assistance Program is for local community-based planning studies that are done on an annual basis. These are the sorts of activities that MORPC works with the member communities, more so active transportation and trail related projects of late. MORPC has done 17 studies since the project began. There are currently two communities that have been the focus the past year – Jefferson Township and Franklin Township. Both of the studies are active transportation studies.
 - Mr. Petrov continued that for 2025, there will be an updated program guide. This guide lays out what the program looks like; what MORPC does during the process; and what the client community does. In September, MORPC will come back to the committee with a resolution to adopt the 2025 Program Guide. Also in September, the next round of applications will open for communities to participate in next year.
- **Wayfinding Program Update** – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC
 - Ms. Vonstein explained that she was going to update the committee on a project focused on the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) region, that received funding from ODOT to develop earlier this year. She continued by reminding the committee that around six years ago, MORPC developed a vision to add over 500 miles of trails in the COG region. At the time, it was an ambitious goal that MORPC wasn't quite sure how they would be able to fund the project. Now, there is more funding than ever before. Local governments are prioritizing trail projects and, with help from the LinkUs initiative, this vision can become a reality. Part of making this project happen is to ensure that all residents are able to leverage this infrastructure. Planning is being done to create programs to encourage people to use walking and biking infrastructure to get out in nature, to use trails, and to integrate walking and biking into the culture of Central Ohioans. These programs are being created in conjunction with Rapid5, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the Ohio to Erie Trail.
 - MORPC has also been working to create a Trail Town Framework to launch a program to encourage communities to embrace walking and biking, and then to also expand work to include kayaking and water activities through the Blue Ways Program. To go along with this, MORPC has been working with ODOT to create a project to ensure that navigating our trails is as seamless as navigating roadways.
 - MORPC began the project by working with a consultant – Designing Local – to develop the ideal user experience. This first priority is to ensure that people feel secure when they're out on the trails – that they know that their basic needs can be met. This will include knowing where restrooms are and how to reach emergency services. If that is done, then it is easier to encourage people to get off the trail to visit local communities in order to patronize restaurants, shops, and other sites in the area. Public art installations, performances, and other

- cultural amenities could also be placed along the trails to inspire people to get out in nature and integrate walking and biking into their daily lives.
- With this idea in mind, the MORPC team collected all of the assets along the Ohio to Erie Trail in four counties. This allowed the team to think more about where more access might be needed, where signage need to be improved at trail heads, and what other amenities might need improved, such as restrooms and other services.
 - The wayfinding strategy as a whole is not defined simply by maps and signage. That was a component, but the team did not want to be too prescriptive in terms of signage and what it should look like. Many of the local communities have a unique identity that is sometimes integrated on local wayfinding signage, which can extend to trails. The goal is to help make it easier for communities to work with their neighbors to think about the content and the destinations that are being included on signage so that it is seamless to go from one community to another and that signage is cohesive.
 - Mr. Watson asked if there were speed limits posted on the trails. Ms. Girves answered that typically she'd seen posted limits of 10 to 15 mph.
 - Ms. Vonstein continued that the next component of the program was to look at digital wayfinding. Many users navigate the trails using apps like Google Maps, Strava Maps, and Map My Run. The team found that most of these apps get their data from two main sources – Google Maps and Open Street Map. The team hypothesized that if those two data sources were improved, the experience of the rest of the apps would be improved. Ms. Vonstein walked the committee through an example of how the team worked to do some of this.
 - Moving on, Ms. Vonstein spoke about creative elements that the team explored. Creative sidewalks are an element which could improve safety, navigation, and make the experience more fun. The final thing the team did was to take all the strategies and ideas that were included in the wayfinding strategy to then implement them into an area at Easton.
 - Pathways Park is along the Alum Creek Trail less than a mile from Easton, which is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail. From this park it is possible to get to Cleveland or Cincinnati in a mostly off road trail experience. Unfortunately, visitors at Easton don't know that Pathways Park is there and that the trail amenity exists. The same is true for trail users, they don't know Easton and its accessories are less than a mile away. Part of this is due to Sunbury Road, which is very challenging to cross and there are no safe or reliable crossings. Thus, part of the wayfinding strategy was to improve the safety of getting to the Park from Easton and vice versa. Other improvements include a premier trailhead with secured vending amenities, kayak launches, bike parking, and other services that trail users might need. This project was to showcase how it could be implemented other places. The Team would love to talk to tourism or marketing groups, cycling groups, planners, and possibly engineers to discuss this work. MORPC also has a forum coming up where the consultant team and Ms. Vonstein will be sharing additional details about what is in the wayfinding strategy on August 27, 2024.

VI. Other Business – Roundtable Discussion

- Chair Rollins started the roundtable by returning to Mr. Rist, who had a questions for ODOT. Mr. Rist asked if ODOT was spending any time, whether that be in planning time or staff time, on the concept of an Outer

Outer Belt. He also asked if ODOT was getting any pressure from local governments to begin this process.

- Mr. Slack started by commenting that the idea of the Outer outer Belt had been around for a long time. He continued by mentioning that in addition to the 23 Connect Study, which is focused on the existing 23 corridor, there is also a statewide transportation development analysis to look at what connections are available statewide to connect people to jobs, industry, etc. It is not geared toward an outer outer belt or a bypass of the city. It is geared towards what can be done to create connections between areas. As far as a formalized outer outer belt and any discussions of it, that isn't happening. Mr. Slack also commented that he didn't believe this was something where any pressure was being applied to ODOT as well.
- Mr. Slack continued that several studies are ongoing around the Intel area for the existing 37 Corridor for some connections between 161 and 70 towards the east side of Columbus. It's not looking at a freeway expressly. It's looking at what those connections are that are needed to connect people to jobs, which will include transit options.
- Mr. Watson had questions about the 171 smart lane. He commented that he read that the lanes are going to be smaller than other lanes. Mr. Slack answered that the lanes would go from 12 feet to 11 feet wide. Part of that was to be able to construct the lane, especially under bridges, without having to expand the existing roadway. The idea is that ODOT will be using the shoulder similar to the 670 lane, on a partial basis.
- Mr. Watson then asked if the smart lane studies have shown that they will actually improve conditions. Mr. Slack answered that the demand is there and it has been there for quite some time. The idea is to get more consistent travel times, similar to what is happening on 670, and the speed limit is reduced. This can help reduce the inconsistency in travel times on the route. The goal is to mitigate the traffic during the peak hour and to help prevent the backups that happen at 5th & 11th Streets, where people are rearending and switching lanes to get all the way over to the left lane.
- Mr. Gill then noted some of the comments that came in prior to the meeting for the roundtable discussion. He referred to the question that Mr. Needleman had about timelines and processes. This might be something that would be worthwhile to come back to with a presentation from Mr. Graham with a 10 to 15 minute overview of what the current process is.
- Mr. Gill also noted that the other comment that came in had to do with the airport terminal and bike and pedestrian availability into the facility. He noted that an airport representative had been at the meeting in November of 2023. It is probably too soon to have them come back, but with the COTA/LinkUs levy there may be more opportunities available to make connections.
- Chair Rollins reminded the group that if they had roundtable topics they should email them to MORPC staff ahead of the meeting.
- Chair Rollins then asked Mr. Slack if it would be possible to get a table with projects listed, where they are in their timelines, etc. Mr. Gill answered that this was something that the MORPC team could work on and have for major projects in the region.
- Mr. Gill then presented topics that will be on the agendas for the next meeting or other meetings in the future.

- Mr. Howard asked if the committee would be able to get updates on the ETOD on a monthly basis. Ms. Schaper mentioned that the ETOD Action Plan would be released in September, so it would be a timely topic for the next meeting.
- Finally, the committee recognized that this was Mr. Gill's last meeting prior to retirement and thanked him again for his work.

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Nick Gill, Secretary

Community Advisory Committee

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **September 4, 2024**
Time: **5:30 p.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Ayres, Jasmine (online)
Bohnert, Eli
Ilmi, Naima
Roehm, Bob
Weiss, Ira (online)

Barton, Tiarra (online)
Esterly, John (online)
May, Eric
Synk, Erin

Beltran, Hugo (online)
Girves, Catherine
Needleman, William
Watson, Lonnie

Guests

Ellingsen, Kelsey

Moshrefi, Mohammad

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag
Cardoni, Lauren
Hampton, Ralonda

Borger, Mike
Dixon, Dave
Oldroyd, Shelby

Bumgardner, April
Graham, Thomas

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Vice-Chair Synk called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
- It was noted that a quorum had not yet been reached, so voting would be postponed until later in the meeting if a quorum was met.

II. Approval of August 2024 Meeting Minutes

- The approval of the August 2024 meeting minutes was deferred until quorum was reached.
- Due to a quorum not being met, the August 2024 meeting minutes will be brought forth for approval during the November 4, 2024 meeting.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report

- **Ohio Commuter Challenge:** Ms. Schaper provided an update on the statewide challenge encouraging sustainable modes of transportation such as carpooling, biking, and walking. They encouraged committee members to promote participation within their networks, noting participants could win prizes. Ms. Schaper suggested that members help promote the challenge through their networks, including social media and workplace communication channels.
- **LinkUS Augmented Reality Tour:** Ms. Schaper announced that two immersive augmented reality tours were scheduled for September 19, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. and October 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., giving a firsthand view of the LinkUS vision along the

West Broad Corridor. Ms. Schaper stated that follow-up information would be provided.

- **Longstreet Bridge & Cultural Wall Celebration:** Ms. Schaper informed the committee about the 10-year anniversary celebration for the Longstreet Bridge & Cultural Wall, which will take place on September 18, 2024. The celebration will feature a program with local leaders and a discussion of the bridge's impact on community connectivity.
- **Safe Streets Central Ohio Event:** Ms. Schaper highlighted the upcoming Safe Streets Central Ohio event on September 26, 2024 at the Wigwam Event Center. The event will focus on regional transportation safety and provide an opportunity for collaboration on safety strategies.
- **Summit on Sustainability:** Mr. Dixon announced that the Summit on Sustainability will be held on October 29, 2024 at the Columbus Downtown Hilton. Jeff Speck, a well-known city planner and advocate for walkable cities, will be the keynote speaker.
- **World Rivers Clean-Up Day:** Mr. Dixon shared details on the September 28, 2024 clean-up efforts focusing on the Scioto, Olentangy, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek rivers, in partnership with Keep Columbus Beautiful and other local organizations.
- **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program:** Mr. Dixon announced that MORPC had secured \$15 million through the CFI discretionary grant program to install electric vehicle charging stations across thirteen counties, with 406 new charging ports planned.
- **Residential Services Program:** Mr. Williams provided an overview of MORPC's Residential Services Program, which has been operating for over 30 years. This program offers home weatherization and repair services to income-eligible households in Franklin County.
- A committee member shared their personal experience with the program, noting that the services provided had a positive impact on their home's energy efficiency and safety.
- A committee member asked if the committee did a grassroots effort to promote the program if it would be a good thing or is there a funding concern. Mr. Williams stated they are always open to getting as many clients as possible. The process is quick, with inspections usually occurring within one week of approval.
- **Home Weatherization Program:** Mr. Williams explained that this program focuses on reducing energy costs and improving safety through services like insulation upgrades and gas leak detection, benefiting around 400 homes annually.
- Mr. Dixon provided a link to an independent study of the program and the benefits to the community. For cost savings, this independent study estimated the households we serve will save an average of \$8,500 over ten years on direct and indirect

expenses. In terms of reducing climate emissions, the work they do on an annual basis is equivalent to taking between 85-118 personal vehicles off Franklin Co. roadways each year, or planting about 20,000+ mature trees.

- **Home Repair Program:** Mr. Williams explained that the program addresses urgent repair needs, including heating system repairs and safety improvements such as wheelchair ramp installations. The program serves approximately 90 homes per year.
- **Transit Agency Reports:**
 - **Delaware County Transit:** Ms. Schaper noted that Delaware County Transit had achieved a record number of trips in August, with 13,807 rides provided. She also announced the upcoming launch of the Sunbury service, scheduled to begin on October 14, 2024.
 - **COTA Update:** Ms. Ellingsen provided an update on the LinkUS initiative, which aims to expand Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines, fixed route services, bikeways, pedestrian infrastructure, adding up to five hundred miles to our trails, sidewalks, and bikeways, including expanding the COTA Plus service to eight new zones. The BRT lines will include stops every half mile to ensure accessibility.
 - A committee member raised concerns about accessibility for individuals with disabilities, particularly regarding the spacing of bus stops. Ms. Ellingsen reassured the committee that existing local bus routes, with more frequent stops, would remain in service alongside the BRT lines to ensure that all areas remain accessible.
 - A committee member asked if an update is available on the number of sidewalk miles. Ms. Ellingsen responded that it is estimated that five hundred miles by 2050 will be added to sidewalks, bikeways, and trails. The way those are being selected is through a community process. They have submitted a final recommendation for their first Capital Improvements Program between now and 2030. Ms. Schaper added that the first 150 miles of improvements have been identified. Included in those 150 miles are 83 projects that span across 35 jurisdictions (55 multi-jurisdictional projects) and 65 projects are expected to be under construction by 2030. It is estimated that the projects in the first five years alone will serve 140,000 more people providing access to fixed route transit stops with approximately 40,000 more jobs being accessible.
 - A committee member inquired about the recent public comment period and the nature of the feedback. Ms. Schaper replied that the comments were positive.

IV. Resolutions

- **Resolution T-9-24: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program:**
 - Mr. Graham presented Resolution T-9-24, explaining that six projects were being added or modified, including a project for COTA's hydrogen fueling infrastructure and four related to the U.S. 33 SE Corridor. The changes involve breaking down larger environmental projects into smaller design components.
 - A committee member expressed gratitude for the addition to the U.S. 33 Corridor stating that along with the announcement that Columbus State will be building a campus hub at the exact location where the development will take place. The campus hub will serve 1,700 students, providing training for first responders and for skilled laborers. The campus is scheduled to be opened in 2027. Mr. Graham stated that ODOT has a public comment period open for the entire U.S. 33 corridor.
 - A committee member asked how the hydrogen fueling infrastructure would reduce emissions. Mr. Graham explained that the project is part of COTA's broader effort to transition to zero-emission vehicles, reducing the region's carbon footprint.
 - A committee member expressed gratitude for the U.S. 33 going to Diley Road project, stating it opens the potential for residents in the Pickerington area to be able to take COTA to downtown Columbus.
 - A motion to approve was not brought forward because a quorum was not present.
- **Resolution T-10-24: Adopting the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide:**
 - Ms. Cardoni presented the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide, which offers services like active transportation planning, trail access and connectivity, and safety planning. They highlighted the program's flexibility in addressing community-specific needs, with applications opening on September 16, 2024.
 - A motion to approve was not brought forward because a quorum was not present.
- **Resolution T-11-24: Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects for TRAC Funding:**
 - Ms. Oldroyd reviewed five projects submitted for TRAC funding, with a total request of \$264.8 million. They explained that the State Route 315 North Knot project ranked highest based on economic and safety impacts, followed by the U.S. 33 SE Corridor. Ms. Oldroyd also summarized public feedback, with most comments supporting these projects and the prioritization process.
 - A committee member commented on how highway expansions might contribute to urban sprawl and increased traffic, potentially undermining efforts to create more sustainable and walkable communities. Ms. Schaper acknowledged the

concern and emphasized that MORPC is working to balance these priorities in its recommendations.

- A committee member commented on the smart lane project with concern about the reduction in the width of the lanes, posing a safety concern.
- A committee member inquired about the nature of the Transportation Review Advisory Committee and asked if transit projects are excluded. Ms. Schaper explained that the criterion of this program is for projects that are at least \$12 million and that the goal of the program is to reduce congestion and create access to jobs. Transit projects have been submitted and funded in the past, but for this round, a transit application was not submitted. Those types of projects are never excluded. It is anticipated that COTA may seek TRAC funding in the future.
- A committee member asked why reducing congestion is a goal. Ms. Agrawal answered that not all congestion is bad. When we measure congestion, it is from a level of service perspective rated on a scale from A to F. The goal is to never have A or B, but instead D or E. Level of service rated F is considered totally congested, and the conditions must be improved. Most transportation in Central Ohio is through vehicles. We are trying to encourage more bike and pedestrian movement through various planning tools. A committee member commented that when we build in a car-centric way, bike and pedestrian transportation is untenable. This is why density is important and congestion is tolerable, leading to the opportunity to create walkable, bikeable, and transit friendly corridors.
- A committee member inquired about the follow-up process for public comments with respect to opposition to a project. Mr. Agrawal responded that community input is one of the primary things which the federal transportation planning process encourages. We collect this input and provide it to our Commission. In this case, the Commission votes and makes recommendations to the TRAC and ODOT.
- Vice-chair Synk stated that based on the discussion, the committee would like to highlight the tension between density walkable, bikeable, and the freeway expansion for consideration both this round and moving forward. A committee member added the need for submission and consideration of projects that are not car focused.
- A motion to approve was not brought forward because a quorum was not present.
- **Resolution T-12-24: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2024:**
 - Ms. Schaper provided a summary of the Planning Work Program Completion Report, explaining that it covers \$4 million in completed work, with \$225,000 carried forward for future projects. The report will be submitted to ODOT after approval.

- A motion to approve was not brought forward because a quorum was not present.

V. Informational Items

- **Central Ohio Climate Action Plan Update**
 - Ms. Peggau provided an update on the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan, funded through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. They emphasized the plan's focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in transportation, energy, and land use sectors.
 - Ms. Peggau encouraged the committee to share the ongoing public survey, which will be open until September 22nd.
 - Ms. Peggau announced that we have received approximately \$15 million from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant.
 - A committee member inquired about what incentives an increased mixed use development project would give. Ms. Peggau responded that these are geared towards finding funding sources and are not set in stone. They serve as a guide for how to proceed in lowering our greenhouse gas emissions. Mixed-use development and overall densifying are one strategy for doing that. Ms. Peggau stated that the EPA suggested these priorities. Mr. Agrawal added that it is basically a policy document. There are no financial incentives involved. We collaborate with the local communities to make sure their land use policies follow these policies. Mixed-use development is a local zoning issue.
 - A committee member asked, along with the economic development aspect of this, are sites being targeted that would then add value and type to the services along with the EV charging that would enhance the businesses for that location, drawing people into that area. Mr. Borger responded that there's existing sites already in some of these communities that through another grant we applied for would repair or replace them to bring them up to standard. As we work with community partners, the community would tell us where these sites could potentially go based on their needs. This is something that is currently being worked through.

VI. Roundtable Discussion

- A committee member asked if materials could be provided to the committee showing quantitative factors beyond what is presented. Ms. Schaper replied that the forecasts that we use to base our MTP on and that we could provide more information on anything of specific interest.
- A member expressed interest in obtaining more detailed information regarding the job impact of specific projects, such as the SR 315 change. They suggested that while it doesn't need to be presented in the meeting, having materials for the committee that include information on job creation could be valuable. Ms. Schaper responded that such data is calculated based on forecasted population and employment, using it to estimate the number of people and jobs located near the projects. They offered to follow up with more specific numbers as requested.

VI. Other Business

- Vice-chair Synk informed members of upcoming membership updates and mentioned that the CAC Nominating Committee would be convening soon to discuss new appointments. The following members agreed to be on the nominating committee: Ms. Girves, Ms. Ilmi, Mr. Watson.
- Ms. Schaper discussed potential topics for upcoming meetings.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Maria Schaper, Interim Secretary
Community Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

October 2024

PROGRAMMING

Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer and Senior Director of Programming – pAgrawal@morpc.org

Transportation

Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director – mschaper@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Ensured applications for MORPC Attributable Funds, OPWC, and other infrastructure funding and technical assistance programs were evaluated in congruence with adopted MTP goals.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- Created a “Getting Around Franklin County” guide to highlight the available transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities. This guide should be in circulation by the end of November 2024.
- The quarterly Central Ohio Mobility Management Working Group meeting was held on October 1, 2024.
- The mobility team continued to present to multiple interest groups and organizations on mobility management services and mobility planning activities.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- The fiscal year 2024 Section 5310 application period opened on September 25, 2024, and closed October 25, 2024. Approximately \$1.7 million is available for eligible activities. Applications are being reviewed, and award notifications are expected later this year.

Gohio Commute

- Gohio Commute and Gohio Mobility hosted a webinar with Nationwide Children’s Hospital to educate their employees on the benefits of both programs.
- Participated in various program tabling events, including those at the Defense Supply Center Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Library Job & Resource Fair, and the Franklin County Expungement Event.
- The OARC Rideshare Subcommittee is collaborating to introduce a new Commuter Perks program and a branded Gohio Commute app, set to launch in Q1 and Q2 of 2025. MORPC staff is leading

these efforts to provide this valuable enhancement to all Gohio Commute Rideshare program across Ohio.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- MORPC team members continued to support LinkUS partner agencies with public engagement activities around the region.

Passenger Rail

- The Corridor ID Program study team met in early October to begin drafting the vision and scope of planning activities. Representatives from MORPC were joined by the City of Fort Wayne, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and the HNTB consultant team. Step 1 pre-planning activities are expected to wrap up in Spring 2025, with service development planning to begin thereafter.
- Local leaders from Central Ohio will travel to Indiana on October 31, 2024 to meet with Mayor Sharon Tucker and other officials with the City of Fort Wayne.
- The next Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee has been rescheduled for November 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Get Ready Initiative

- The consultant team developed and distributed a survey to local governments within the study area. The survey is intended to learn how development pressures and desired land uses have changed in the last three years and what needs communities need assistance with as they plan for growth.
- The data and modeling team continued to work with the consultant team on expansion of the travel demand model.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- CORPO September subcommittee meetings were held in all seven counties in person in the last two weeks of September. These meetings also served as Rural Consultation Meetings to kick-off the development of the 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/TIP).
- The interactive, online dashboard for the CORPO Safety Action Plan was developed and will be complete and available to use in November for the public and CORPO community stakeholders. This dashboard will be updated annually as new crash data is available.
- CORPO staff will attend an ODOT workshop to prepare for the Functional Classification Review process, then will coordinate with CORPO counties starting in November to complete the review. The full review will need to be completed by August 2025.
- The CORPO Committee will meet for their next meeting in-person at MORPC on Monday, November 4 at 2 p.m.

Active Transportation Planning:

- The fourth quarter ATC meeting was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. Updates were provided on the City of Columbus Shared Mobility Program, the City of Columbus Bike Plus Plan, the Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy, and more. Presentation materials are available on the MORPC website at www.morpc.org/committees/active-transportation-committee.
- The MORPC team is participating in the planning committee for the first statewide Active Transportation conference. The conference will be hosted by ODOT in the spring of 2025 in Central Ohio. The first Conference Coordination Committee meeting was held on October 7 and will be held on a recurring

basis as ODOT gears up for the spring conference. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

- MORPC team members collaborated with partners across the region to conduct four Trails and Active Transportation Subregion meetings during the week of October 21-25, 2024. During each meeting, participants were invited to discuss sidewalk, bikeway, and trail connectivity in their communities and surrounding subregion. Representatives from the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) team, the MORPC Active Transportation Program, the Central Ohio Greenways Program, and Rapid 5 also shared relevant updates with attendees. The meetings were an opportunity for neighboring communities to collaborate and discuss their goals, visions, and potential funding strategies for trails and active transportation facilities. The four meetings included:
 - The Northeast Subregion, hosted at the Westerville Community Center on October 21.
 - The Northwest Subregion, hosted at the City of Dublin on October 22.
 - The Southeast Subregion, hosted at the Wigwam Event Center in Pickerington on October 23.
 - The Southwest Subregion, hosted at the Scioto Grove Metro Park in Grove City on October 25.
- MORPC continues to host virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) monthly Professional Development webinars. These webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov (JPetrov@morpc.org) to attend a MORPC group viewing. The next webinar is on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, on the topic of, "Multi-benefit Corridors: Designing Our Streets for Multisystem Benefits."
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
 - Gahanna Transportation and Mobility Plan Steering Committee kick-off meeting on October 16.
 - OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting on October 15.

Transportation Safety:

- The MORPC team collaborated with the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) for a second semester to teach Public Health Students at Ohio Wesleyan University about the impacts of the built environment on public health. MORPC assisted DPHD to engage the students in conducting walk audits of the built environment around campus. The walk audits also involved staff from the City of Delaware. The students are responsible for creating final recommendations based on their observations and presenting their findings to DPHD and City of Delaware staff. Past walk audits with the public health students have resulted in City staff implementing basic infrastructure improvements.
- MORPC team members participated in the following safety committee meetings:
 - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition meeting on October 2.
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board meeting on October 3.
 - ODOT SHSP Steering Committee meeting on October 28.
 - Crash Research Network meeting on October 31.

Technical Assistance Program:

- The application window for the 2025 Technical Assistance Program closed on Friday, October 11, 2024. Four applications were received and are being reviewed by the evaluation committee. Awardees will be notified on or before November 15, 2024.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- MORPC is preparing for the development of the SFY 2026-2029 TIP, including integration with ODOT's new E-STIP platform which is being rolled out this fall.
- Administrative modifications to the SFY 2024-2027 TIP were processed in October.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- Final applications for new funding commitments were received at the end of September. MORPC is working to evaluate these applications and will be providing draft scoring to the AFC in November.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- The Public Works Integrating Committee for District 3 (Franklin County) held an applicant presentations meeting on October 18th.
- Applications for SFY 26 SCIP/LTIP funding are currently being evaluated.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- The priority list of applications from the MORPC area was presented to TRAC members at the Central Ohio regional public hearing on October 16, 2024.

Federal Competitive Programs

- The Economic Development team met with JobsOhio to discuss its federal priorities for 2025 -- innovation districts; space, defense, and aerospace; and alignment with biomanufacturing, next generation technology. This conversation allows MORPC to work more strategically with JobsOhio and One Columbus going into 2025.
- MORPC staff has established a process for Letters of Support requests. The process will help Central Ohio communities and MORPC partners receive MORPC's support letter in a timely manner and simultaneously track and record internally all the letters provided for different funding opportunities. You can find the link here: <https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/funding-opportunities/>.
- The Economic Development team met with staff from Marion County and administrators of the All Ohio Future Fund (AOFF) program to discuss a site development project. If funded, the grant will pay for a sewer line extension to a key industrial park in the region.
- MORPC's Economic Development District provided two Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Letters of Alignment to support the EDA Build to Scale grant. Providing these letters confirm the application's alignment with CEDS, the regional blueprint for economic development.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
 - Oct. 7: Charles D. Hillman, President and CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority: Affordable Housing
 - Oct. 14: Indigenous Peoples' Day (holiday): No Money Mondays
 - Oct. 21: Patty Huddle, President, Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority: Financing Options
 - Oct. 28: Lynanne Gutierrez (Wolf), Esq., President & CEO of Groundwork Ohio: Childcare resources

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Padmini Roy-Dixon, Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer – proydixon@morpc.org

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/Economic Development District:

- The Regional Freight Study grant application to the EDA was not successful. During the debrief call with the EDA, we received feedback to reapply after modifying the project scope and the team will explore the possibility of rescoping the application with more of an economic development focus.
- The Economic Development team has completed MORPC's first Performance Progress and Federal Financial reports as an Economic Development District. These reports are required to comply with EDA's Partnership Planning Grant award.
- The next CEDS Committee meeting is scheduled for November 21.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- The Economic Development team is relaunching the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) program to increase its breadth and deepen its reach. A draft proposal was shared with MORPC's Senior Director for Programming and will be further socialized with other MORPC leadership.

Brownfield Assessments:

- MORPC is applying to U.S. EPA's Community Wide Assessment Grant to support brownfield redevelopment projects. Linden, South Side, and Mt. Vernon are target areas for the grant, but all MORPC members are eligible for assistance. Grant funds totaling \$500,000 can pay for phase 1&2 assessments, hazardous material assessments, community engagement efforts, and site reuse or clean up planning. The team has spent the past month building relationships with community partners in the target area and collecting data to support the application that is due on November 14, 2024.

Drive Investment Portal:

- The Drive Investment Portal is a free member resource with up-to-date information on active and proposed funding opportunities to help finance regional priorities. For any questions on the portal and/or a funding opportunity, please contact Preston Frick at pfrick@morpc.org.

PLANNING

Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning – jkuenzli@morpc.org

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

- The COG Board met on October 1, 2024, to discuss Working Group updates and review a draft work plan for 2025.
- The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program. The group will continue to build consensus around the brand and introduce concepts of the brand during the Summit on Sustainability. The group is continuing to seek funding for a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program, the Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland Project, and Operational Funding.
- The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus continues to be a popular program with hundreds of new sign-ups and check-ins monthly.
- COG is considering opportunities to utilize a statewide trail mapping platform called Outerspatial that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has recently begun utilizing. Outerspatial is providing a regional pricing schedule for MORPC review in November.
- The COG Trail Closure and Detours Steering Committee has met twice to discuss recommendations for designing and marketing trail detours. They will meet once more to finalize the recommendations.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee kicked off their project in April. A technical working group met throughout July and August to guide the data indexing process. The project is on track to be completed this fall.
- MORPC is offering support to communities interested in implementing the recently released COG Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. The City of Hilliard applied for these services during the most recent round.
- A Forum will be held in December. The agenda will be released in November.
- MORPC partnered with the City of Columbus on an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) application to advance trail town program work. The application was submitted on July 17th.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) launched in July 2024 in partnership with RAPID 5. GPS has been supporting RAPID 5 in technical assistance, strategic planning, and regional collaboration. GPS is interested in collaborations with local government partners to expand greenway planning beyond trails, to conservation, public access, and connectivity of all green spaces.
- GPS hosted regional collaboration meetings in the four quadrants of the MPO area the week of October 21, 2024. An additional four quadrant meetings will be held in rural quadrants in November.
- GPS is developing a strategic plan to leverage existing MORPC and partner resources and is working with Rapid 5 on grant strategies.

Central Ohio Blueways

- Central Ohio Blueways held a large-scale river cleanup on September 28, 2024 with multiple partners including Keep Columbus Beautiful, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, the City of Columbus, FLOW, FACT, the Scioto Watershed Action Group, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cities of Bexley and Gahanna, and RAPID 5. With over eight locations along the Scioto River,

Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek, the cleanup effort pulled out 3,750 pounds of litter from Central Ohio waterways. Planning for a second coordinated cleanup effort will begin in November.

- The Working Groups continue to prioritize and define their goals for 2025. The Environmental Stewardship Working Group will focus on invasive and native species guides, and installations of the Onion Bag Project. The User Experience Working Group will focus on assembling a hazard mitigation consortium, assembling a signage package, and creating an access point sponsorship program. Additionally, the Water Trail Designation Working Group will focus on updating the partnership agreement drafts, updating the required mapping, and will begin meeting with Big Walnut Creek communities.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS)

Outreach

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. The MORPC team is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy.
- The Community Development Team also worked with the City of Columbus to include supplemental planning activities in their Pathways to Removing Obstacles in Housing (PRO Housing) grant application.
- Proposed assistance includes a pilot study to assemble a housing action plan for the City of Reynoldsburg, along with public engagement activities over the six-year life of the grant.

Implementation Assistance

- Are you interested in a housing/growth workshop for your community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders? MORPC is accepting requests for presentations and workshops. Our team will work with you to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Jonathan Miller for more information (jmiller@morpc.org).

Community-Based Planning Assistance (CBPA)

- The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be available as a resource. Members may learn more about – or request assistance from – CBPA by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance>. Please contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org) with any questions or to discuss potential ways that MORPC may assist.
- The Community Development Team is also reviewing the community assistance provided through the Consultant Services and Planner Pool Programs to identify potential additions. If there is any specific topic or area of planning that you think should be included in the community assistance services that MORPC provides, please contact Jonathan Miller at jmiller@morpc.org.

Consultant Services Program

- The Community Development Team is working on opening prequalification for 2025. New eligible services will include cost estimating and feasibility studies.
- If you have a Request for Proposal (RFP) you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, reach out to consultantservices@morpc.org for additional information.

Planner Pool Program

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. The Community Development Team is accepting projects related to planning, zoning, and sustainability.
- If you are interested in additional staffing assistance, filling staff vacancies during staff vacations or periods of leave, or other planning or pre-planning activities such as guidance with best practices, getting started with a new or updated zoning code or Comprehensive Plan, contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org) to schedule a time to discuss your community's potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) Workshop:

- The Community Development Team will be hosting the first workshop aimed at training and providing context for elected and appointed planning officials for MORPC's Member Communities. The STEPZ Workshop for Planning Officials will feature sessions on the roles and responsibilities of planning commissions and zoning boards, connecting the work of these entities to community planning as a whole, and discussions around the legalities of zoning and how to interact with engaged members of the public. The workshop will also feature an interactive element in partnership with the Urban Land Institute where attendees will get hands on experience in the role of a developer.
- The workshop will be held on November 19, 2024, from 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM. You can register for the event [here](#), and if you have any questions about the event and how it can assist your community's planning commissions and boards of zoning appeals, contact Tunazzina Alam (talam@morpc.org).

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

- The next SAC meeting will take place on December 18, 2024 at 2:15 p.m. at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley and will include a special holiday celebration. The MORPC team will also be working to confirm member appointments that are effective in 2025. If you're interested in being considered or would like to recommend another MORPC member or private sector partner, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org).

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

- The sub-committee held their second meeting on October 17, 2024 and made progress on reviewing and updating goals and objectives. Committee members will continue to provide their input between meetings. The next meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for November 22, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org).

Sustainable2050

- The Q4 Sustainable2050 meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. and will be a hybrid meeting. The agenda will include updates on the Regional Sustainability Agenda and a presentation from Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health, about a recent tree canopy study conducted countywide. Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members, and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org. A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook has been submitted and reviewed by the MORPC team, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings.

Water Resources Program

[Sustaining Scioto Board](#)

- The Board met on October 22, 2024 and discussed 2025 priorities including transitioning from a board focused on the Scioto Watershed to a more regional focus under the proposed Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC). This is timely considering the growth and development in the region as well as ongoing efforts including the Regional Water Study (RWS). The board is repositioning itself to be a convening body focused on advancing broader regional priorities, including 208 planning, and the recommendations and outcomes of the RWS upon its completion. MORPC staff and the Board will continue to work through the components needed for the transition including by-laws and a charter to guide the work of the RWAC.

[Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team](#)

- The next team meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024.

[Clean Ohio Conservation Fund](#)

- The Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) met on October 7, 2024 to review and approve scoring completed by MORPC staff for components of the applications, including the Local Coordination and Support. The Committee also voted on the cost effectiveness of each proposed project based on Clean Ohio criteria for cost per acre / cost per linear feet. The Committee will meet on November 4, 2024 to vote and approve projects for funding.
- For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at eteve@morpc.org or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.

[Regional Water Study](#)

- The Hazen and Sawyer consultant team continues to work through the deliverables of the Regional Water Study following the second update provided in August. Updates on progress will be shared as they become available.
- Previous webinar recordings and slide deck information can be accessed [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section. If you would like to receive information for future webinars, please contact Edwina Teye at eteve@morpc.org.

[208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process](#)

- MORPC continues to engage the ad hoc 208 committee to consider the State's request for MORPC to become a designated areawide planning agency. Among other tasks, the committee will review and make recommendations on the agency's proposed approach to managing modifications to Facility Planning Area boundaries and dispute resolution related to sewer service. MORPC seeks to establish a proactive and collaborative process, with clear guidance and a structured framework for fostering dialogue among local authorities to achieve mutually agreed-upon solutions. The committee will continue to meet and provide input on key decisions, such as the proposed geographic extent of the designated area, the operational structure, and funding considerations for standing up a designated areawide planning agency.

Energy Planning

[Energy and Air Quality Working Group](#)

- The next and final EAQWG meeting of the year is scheduled on November 20, 2024 from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

[Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Infrastructure](#)

- MORPC just closed the RFP looking for EV vendors to repair and/or replace broken or non-operational EV charging ports throughout the 15-county region as part of MORPC's \$2M award from the US DOT-FHWA's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) Program. Over the next few weeks, MORPC will review proposals and award the best-fit vendor(s) to complete the EVC RAA work as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.
- As previously announced last month, MORPC won a \$15M award for its MORE EVS proposal as part of the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B grant program. MORE EVS will unlock an additional \$6.9M in regional investment to install sixty-two new charging sites, both L2 and DCFC, across thirteen counties, further extending the EV charging network in Central Ohio. Over the next couple of months, MORPC will be working with the FHWA to finalize the grant agreement. Stay tuned for more details.
- Additionally, MORPC submitted a \$69M CFI Round 2 application in mid-September, focusing on building out both passenger and medium- and heavy-duty EV charging hubs along the Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). MORPC was the lead applicant working collaboratively with Prologis Mobility, several local government members, the Electrification Coalition, Smart Columbus, the National Center for Urban Solutions, and others to increase the EV charging network and the workforce development ecosystem.

[US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\) Program](#)

- Work on the CPRG Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) continues. COCAP aims to create a unified approach to regional planning and pollution mitigation actions. The COCAP team, led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others, just closed its COCAP Community Priorities Survey. The team conducted technical working sessions in late October with regional stakeholders across public and private sectors providing key information to update the region's pollution reduction strategies. If you'd like more information, please visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

[Air Quality](#)

[Air Quality Alerts](#)

- No Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region in October. There was an isolated particulate matter exceedance at the Fairgrounds monitoring station on October 19, 2024 which was attributed to activities at the Fairgrounds that increased particulate levels locally. Particulate matter 2.5 levels reached the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) scale on this day.

[US EPA Funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project \(CLEAN\)](#)

- The team, in partnership with Franklin County Public Health, has made great progress on the US EPA funded air monitoring project. Under the advisement of the air quality modeling consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, the team has created an interactive map of where sensors should be deployed and have been sharing this with local community partners. The team extended the deadline for sensor deployment from October 31, 2024 to November 30, 2024 to ensure the best possible placements for analyzing local PM2.5 levels within Franklin County.

[Outreach](#)

- The Air Quality team presented to the Ohio Organizing Collaborative on October 15, 2024, two classes at the Ohio State University on October 22, 2024, the Clintonville GreenSpot group on October 22, 2024, and convened air quality practitioners from across the state to present in a breakout session at the Summit on Sustainability on October 29, 2024.

Data, Mapping & Modeling

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- The RDAC met on October 1, 2024 at MORPC. RDAC continues to focus on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cybersecurity, and Regional Data Coaching projects and initiatives. Notably, registration was opened for the Cybersecurity for Local Leaders event to be held at MORPC on October 31, 2024, the call for proposals for Data Day 2025 has opened and will close on November 30th, and the DEI & Data working group held its first pop-up help sessions at the Main Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Data Day Working Group

- The Data Day Working Group sent out a Call for Proposals for Data Day 2025 at the end of September. The working group is also focusing their efforts on identifying potential morning and lunch speakers. If you have any suggestions on local leaders in data who would make an excellent addition to the Data Day program, contact Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.

Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)

- The final meeting for RIDG will be held at MORPC on November 13, 2024. The RIDG Chair and MORPC have met with the Steering Committee discussing plans for the next meeting. At this time, the main presentation topic will focus on Data Privacy. We are currently seeking and accepting proposals.

Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)

- The user group will meet again on World GIS Day, November 20, 2024.

Regional Data Coaching Working Group

- The working group met on October 3, 2024 to report out on their first pop-up event held at The Columbus Metropolitan Main Library, which was attended by representatives from two community organizations. The group discussed ways to expand outreach and participation and plan future pop-up events. Additionally, the group continued planning for the intended soft launch of the persistent online Data Coaches group at Data Day in February of 2025.

Workforce and Job Quality Working Group

- The working group last met on September 19, 2024 and began to define regional standards associated with five dimensions of job quality, namely earnings, schedules, benefits, safety and security, and learning and development. The group intends to refine the draft standards with the participation of regional workforce stakeholders. The group continues to participate in the Results for America Workforce Fellowship, a free six-month program that includes monthly webinars, office hours with RFA staff, and engagement with other organizations pursuing work related to job quality. The group is considering applying for a follow-up session of the fellowship that is intended to help participants act on the concepts introduced in the first session.

DEI & Data Working Group

- The working group met on October 9, 2024 to evaluate progress and identify the support needed to complete content and assure alignment between proposed still-in-development DEI sessions. The group unanimously agreed to pivot the venue for delivering their content from a standalone event to breakout sessions at Data Day 2025. All working group members are engaged in one session and plan to submit proposals before the November 30, 2024 deadline.

Cyber Security Working Group

- The working group met on October 22, 2024 to finalize the run of show and joint presentation for the “Cybersecurity for Local Leaders” event to be held at MORPC on October 31, 2024. Event registration is open to MORPC members. Interested parties should contact Dave Dixon at ddixon@moprc.org with any questions.

Data Management

- Development continues on the MORPC Insights platform. Insights will be a web application whose purpose is to provide data-derived insights on various topics at the regional, county, and community levels. Each insight will be supported by data, visualizations, and expert commentary. Insights is eventually expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition MORPC-produced content. The team is wrapping up development of the user interface for the platform and is developing tools for collection and management of data and expert commentary. The team met with MORPC staff experts on transportation, housing, and sustainability to determine what data related to those subjects should be included in the platform and how it should be presented and will continue to work with these collaborators to produce the content to be hosted in the platform.
- The team also pursued several continuous improvement efforts:
 - Created script to summarize small-area (TAZ/GridMAZ) forecasts for arbitrary geographies.
 - Created script to summarize county-level forecasts for various regional collections of counties (15-county region, 10-county region, CORPO region, CEDS region, and Columbus MSA) and visualize the summarized data.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research Activities:

- Work continues for our initiative to improve the speed and quality of TAZ-level socioeconomic forecasts for the 2028 MTP cycle. The team is preparing data and documentation to support the Intel “Get Ready” Area study, which will result in an expansion of the travel demand model to ten counties. Part of this task is updating existing and future land use for ten counties in preparation for the next MTP cycle.

Data & Research Activities

- A draft of the next Leader’s Listen survey is finished and is being reviewed for release. This will be the first of an annual series of comprehensive surveys that cover transportation, housing, sustainability, and other topics.
- Team members continue to manage the organization’s air quality sensors in support of the US EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant. The team is working with a third-party consultant to develop improved scripts for retrieving, standardizing, and validating PurpleAir data. The team continues to assist with other aspects of the project, such as sensor siting.
- County population estimates as of January 1, 2024, have been produced. Historically these were used to create sub-county population estimates but were not released as a standalone data product, however we plan to release the latest estimates on the Population Hub in October.

- Population estimates for sub-county jurisdictions as of January 1, 2024, have been published [on the Population Hub](#).
- The team is collaborating with a group of graduate students in The Ohio State University Master of Translational Data Analytics program to conduct a property tax productivity analysis (a.k.a “value per acre”) analysis for parcels in Delaware County. Past studies in other locations have revealed that traditional walkable neighborhoods characteristic of those built prior to World War II produce significantly more tax value per acre than automobile-oriented development characteristic of post-WWII development patterns. The project is structured as a two-semester capstone course which will end in May 2025. The students are carrying out the analysis under supervision from MORPC staff. A key project goal is that the analysis will be reproducible and easily adaptable to other counties. The processes for working with county parcel data may also facilitate other critical MORPC work including sub-county population estimates.

Upcoming updates to standard data products:

- Detailed migration analysis by county (temporarily suspended in favor of other priorities)
- County-level population estimates as of January 1, 2024 (October)
- Key ACS 2023 5-year estimate data for MORPC counties will be published on the Population Hub with new and improved user interface in Q1 2025.

Mapping Activities

- Established Green Infrastructure Story map application.
- MORPC attributable funding project evaluation.
- US EPA Community Change grant application maps and interactive applications.
- Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program – worked with data team to acquire Limited English Proficiency data from Census ACS data and provided maps for Limited English Proficiency Plan.
- Provided SWACO’s School Programs Administrator with an updated district map.
- Network Analysis assistance was provided to planning staff for Newark’s park planning project.
- Increased focus on procedure documentation.
- Updates to existing and future land use.
- Identifying government owned and vacant lands.
- Staff are working to improve the Active Transportation Network to be used for various projects, like Rapid5, TSI and Technical Assistance.

Modeling Activities

- Completed MORPC Attributable Funding Projects - Evaluation Needs.
- Completed GHG Inventory for Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (COCAP).
- Del/Lic Drive times, model of record update, Intel Long Range Planning—model expansion, SR 37 corridor project, City of Delaware Thoroughfare Plan are in progress.
- Five traffic growth rates have been completed from October 1, 2024 to the present.
- A task order (No. 5) for traffic counts has been issued to the consultant, Southern Traffic Services.
- Traffic count data for seventy-five locations in Delaware County has been processed.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Ralonda Hampton, Senior Director of Communications & Engagement – rhampton@morpc.org

News Releases/Advisories:

- [Garrison Appointed as MORPC's Strategic Director of Technology – MORPC.org](#) (10/17/2024)
- [MORPC Announces Leadership Promotions in Communications, Transportation and Sustainability – MORPC.org](#) (10/24/2024)

MORPC in the News:

- [COTA to expand bus rapid transit line through East Main Street](#) (9/20/2024)
- [Etna Township moving in a positive direction, trustees' president says](#) (9/21/2024)
- [\(316\) Columbus Dispatch reporter Jordan Laird explains the COTA LinkUS sales tax - YouTube](#)
(9/23/2024)
- ["THE Big Table" event, hosted by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission](#) (9/24/2024)
- [Amtrak offering temporary train service from Cleveland to Florida starting in November](#) (9/25/2024)
- [Some city leaders want to see integration of several downtown groups](#) (9/27/2024)
- [Chillicothe Sets 2024 Trick or Treat Date](#) (10/1/2024)
- [All aboard in Ann Arbor: What Ohio can learn from Michigan when it comes to Amtrak service](#)
(10/4/2024)
- [The LinkUs sales tax levy](#) (10/11/2024)
- [Two countywide issues on the ballot in Franklin County and a dozen in various municipalities](#)
(10/13/2024)
- [Columbus to add 1 million people by 2050? Where the mammoth population projection comes from](#)
(10/13/2024)
- [How Halloween celebrations have changed since the early days of Columbus](#) (10/13/2024)
- [Examining how LinkUs could change public transportation in Columbus](#) (10/14/2024)
- [Issue 47: What the new sales tax levy means for Franklin County residents](#) (10/17/2024)
- [Bishop provides update on diocesan initiatives in men's club talk](#) (10/20/2024)
- [How much faster would Columbus Bus Rapid Transit be? Sales tax levy could make commute faster](#)
- [Our View: Columbus needs better public transport. Vote yes for LinkUS' bus rapid transit](#) (10/21/2024)
- [Transit Update with MORPC](#) (10/22/2024)
- [What Columbus could expect from BRT based on success in other cities](#) (10/22/2024)
- [Council reviewing CW's 2025 city budget](#) (10/24/2024)

Digital Content:

Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Threads

- Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Summit on Sustainability; Voter Education; CAC Applications; Stepz Workshop; Housing Crisis Series; Indigenous Peoples Day; Yom Kippur; Technical Assistance Program; Pedestrian Safety Month; Safe Streets Central Ohio; Global Diversity Month; Stormwater Awareness; Big Table; World Rivers Day Clean Up; 5310 Applications; eSource; MORPC News

Reach

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Top Posts

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Diversity & Inclusion:

- MORPC's C&E Team participated in the Franklin County Office of DEI annual Diversity Conference held on October 22, 2024 and October 23, 2024. This year, the theme was "Serving Through the Lens of Inclusion: Celebrating Differences & Building Inclusive Futures."
- MORPC joined the Columbus Urban League for their annual Empowerment Day on October 22, 2024. Empowerment Day is their annual signature event that celebrates community leaders and businesses who are making a difference in the community and working towards a fully inclusive economy.
- 5310 Applications: [9/24](#)

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- Stepz Workshop: [9/30](#), [10/10](#), [10/17](#)
- 5310 Applications: [9/24](#)
- World River's Day Clean-Up: [9/25](#)
- Technical Assistance Program: [10/4](#)
- Summit on Sustainability: [9/17](#), [9/25](#), [10/2](#), [10/8](#), [10/12](#), [10/14](#)
- LinkUS Town Hall: [10/7](#), [10/9](#)
- CURA & MORPC Housing Crisis Forum: [9/23](#), [9/30](#), [10/15](#)
- Community Advisory Committee: [10/9](#), [10/24](#)

Marketing Campaigns:

- MORPC's Residential Services department is currently being promoted to Franklin County residents through billboard advertisements to increase awareness for low-income homeowners and renters.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – eleuby@morpc.org

Member Visits Completed

- Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District 10/9; Village of Lexington 10/23; City of Lancaster 10/23; City of Dublin 10/30.

Upcoming Member Visits

- Delaware City 11/4; Delaware County 11/4; Bloom Township 11/6; City of London 11/12; Madison County 11/12; Logan County 11/12; CMHA 11/19; Village of Granville 11/19; Village of Marble Cliff 11/20; City of Johnstown 11/20; City of Sunbury 11/20.

Communications

- Produced a monthly newsletter which contains all event links and legislative updates which is issued to all members the day before any commission meeting. Also provided a Drive Investment Newsletter with grant and resource information.

Member Benefits

- Featured the Ohio University (OU) Partnership and announced two new benefits:
 - The OU Online Program.
 - Multiple options with Otterbein University, including a spouse and children benefit.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: October 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Informational Items for the Community Advisory Committee

The information below provides a brief introduction to the informational items on the November 4, 2024 CAC agenda.

Attributable Funding Update

Tom Graham will provide an update to the committee on the status of the current round of Attributable Funding. This will include a summary of outstanding commitments, a summary of final applications received, and an explanation of the next steps in the evaluation process.

Mobility Management Update

Emma Strange will provide an update on mobility management activities in Franklin County. This will include a demonstration of current mobility planning tools, summary of the Regional Mobility Plan, and opportunities to engage with mobility management.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary