



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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NOTICE OF A MEETING

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

March 3, 2025
5:30 p.m.

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Phone conference ID: 471 878 048#

AGENDA

- 5:30 p.m. Welcome & Introductions – Erin Synk, Chair**
- 5:32 p.m. Approval of February 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 5:33 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC, Dave Dixon, MORPC**
- Transit Agency Reports
 - Delaware County Transit – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- 5:45 p.m. Resolutions**
- T-2-25 Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Elliott Lewis, MORPC
 - T-3-25 Adopting MORPC Attributable Funding Commitments – Thomas Graham, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- T-4-25 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Expansion – Maria Schaper, MORPC

6:15 p.m. Informational Items

- State Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development – Tom Graham, MORPC

6:45 p.m. Other Business

- 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
April 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Informational Items for the Community Advisory Committee

This previews the informational items for the upcoming Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The informational items section of the agenda requires no action by the CAC during the meeting. These items either provide information on a topic requiring future CAC action or describe an activity or topic of interest to the CAC related to our Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) transportation planning role.

SFY 2026 Planning Work Program

Ms. Schaper will provide a brief overview of the Planning Work Program (PWP). The PWP is the annual scope of work that MORPC performs as the MPO with the federal planning funding we receive. The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 PWP will be adopted during the May meeting cycle. The existing SFY 2025 PWP is available on our website at <https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/planning-work-program-pwp>.

State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

Mr. Graham will provide an overview of the TIP development process which is currently underway for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2029 TIP. The TIP is one of the three core documents which MORPC develops and maintains as an MPO. This document includes a listing of all projects receiving federal funding, as well as any other regionally significant projects, which will advance any phase over the next four years. Projects are required to be accurately listed in the TIP in order to utilize federal funding. The current SFY 2024-2027 TIP is available on our website at <https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/transportation-improvement-program/>.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **February 3, 2025**
Time: **5:30 p.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Beltran, Hugo
Esterly, John
Ferron, Leah
Grives, Catherine
Howard, Quincy
May, Eric
Mchao, Suzan

Moshrefi, Mo
Rist, John
Roehm, Bob
Smith, Shameikia
Solether, Ashley
Synk, Erin
Watson, Lonnie

Weiss, Ira
Zimomra, Judith

Guests

Ilmi, Naima

Ganter, Kenny

Ginosar, Griffin

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag
Diaz-Hernandez, JR
Graham, Thomas
Hampton, Ralonda

Kuenzli, Jessica
Murdock, William
Oldroyd, Shelby (online)
Rapp, Melissa

Ratliff, Chuck
Ruscin, Hannah (online)
Schaper, Maria
Vonstein, Melinda

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Synk called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. There was a quorum present. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Mr. Murdock welcomed the new members and thanked the committee for their service.

II. Approval of December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Synk asked for a motion to approve the December 2, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Weiss moved; Ms. Ferron seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC

- Ms. Schaper informed the committee of the following:
 - MORPC opened a public comment period on the Draft Funding Recommendations for attributable funding in early January. This public comment period will remain open through February 12, 2025, and comments can be submitted via mail, email to tip@morpc.org, or through an interactive online web map accessible via www.morpc.org
 - MORPC is updating its traffic counts database and platform. Beginning in April, our traffic count database will only accept 24-hour counts and will no longer accept partial counts. This change is due to the increased costs associated with maintaining partial counts, and because industry standards

and best practices indicate 24-hour counts as the most effective data. MORPC is sending email notifications to frequent users of the system and has added a note to the website. Please inform any consultants you work with and reach out if you have questions or concerns.

- The League of American Bicyclists has designated Grove City a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level.
- Ms. Kuenzli informed the committee of the following:
 - MORPC's Planning Department has been actively pursuing funding related to electric vehicles and climate initiatives. We have successfully secured a \$15 million grant through Round 1b of the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant program, as well as a \$2 million grant from the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator. Furthermore, we are partnering with the City of Columbus on the Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant Program. Given the current federal transition, we are closely monitoring developments to understand potential impacts on these and other related programs. This is a high priority for the agency.
- Ms. Schaper provided a Delaware County Transit (DCT) update:
 - DCT has had another record-breaking year for ridership with 154,540 trips served across their system.
 - This is their third year in a row with over 100,000 trips served and a 30% increase in ridership over the last year.
 - With intensive focus from staff, they decreased at fault accidents by 42%, from 21 at faults in 2023 to 12 in 2024.
- Mr. Ganter presented the COTA update to the committee, sharing the following information:
 - The COTA Board of Trustees recently approved a new Extreme Heat and Cold Policy. During declared extreme weather emergencies, all fixed-route services will be fare-free. This includes COTA/Plus and Mainstream.
 - The seasonal Zoo Bus service will return in May 2025. Service begins May 10, 2025 and will operate on weekends until Memorial Day. It will then operate seven days a week until Labor Day.
 - Proposed service increases for May 2025 were discussed. These include changes to Line 34 Morse and Line 102 Polaris/N High. There is also a proposal to add a midnight lineup on weekdays and Saturdays for Lines 1-11, 102, and CMAX. These changes are based on growing ridership and customer requests. Staff will assess all lines to improve on-time performance. Not all proposed service increases will be possible, but public feedback will help COTA prioritize which of the following changes will be made in May.
 - Finally, Mr. Ganter discussed an East-West Transit Feasibility Study. The study will examine transit options in the northern Franklin County, southern Delaware County, western Licking County, and southwest Union County areas. It will also look at the Morse Road and State Route 161 corridors, I-270, and major job centers in the region. The study is expected to be completed in early 2026.

IV. Resolutions

- T-1-25 Amending the State Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP)
 - Ms. Schaper brought forth resolution T-1-25 for the committee's consideration. This resolution amends the state fiscal year 2025 PWP, adding the Prioritization Process Pilot Program. MORPC was awarded funds to complete this activity upon a successful application to U.S. DOT's Prioritization Process Pilot Program in 2024. This activity will conduct a comprehensive review and revision of MORPC's project prioritization and selection process for inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
 - In addition, this amendment adds an additional \$2,650,000 to the budget of Safe Streets for All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities.
 - Chair Synk asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Girves moved; Mr. Weiss seconded; and the motion passed.

V. Informational Items

- Air Quality Update
 - Mr. Diaz-Hernandez provided an update on the Air Quality Program, discussing the CLEAN (Community Led Enhanced Air Quality Network) project, a community-led initiative to enhance air quality monitoring.
 - Thirty-one sensors have been deployed in priority areas, with 5 additional sensors reserved for backup. These sensors will feed data into the Ramboll Shair model, improving the understanding of pollution sources. The project also includes community outreach and public education components. The sensors' readings can be found at: <https://map.purpleair.com/air-quality-standards-us-epa-aqi?opt=%2F1%2Fip%2Fa10%2Fp604800%2Fc0#9.51/39.9814/-82.9563>
 - Mr. Diaz-Hernandez also addressed seasonal air quality concerns, noting that colder weather can trap pollutants closer to the ground.
 - Mr. Diaz-Hernandez encouraged attendees to sign up for air quality alerts and to take precautions with heating systems and wood-burning stoves. Sign up for MORPC air quality alerts at https://mailchi.mp/1d5b539be321/air_alerts
- Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Vision Expansion
 - Ms. Vonstein presented updates on the Regional Trail Vision, highlighting the progress in 2024. Key accomplishments include regional collaboration securing funding for over 25% of the COG Vision within Franklin County by 2030. The COG Vision expanded to 15 counties, adding over 300 miles of proposed trails.
 - The newly formed Trail Town Working Group received the 2024 Regional Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award at the MORPC Summit on Sustainability.
 - Three projects were completed: the COG Wayfinding Strategy, Detours & Closures Guidelines, and Mapping Natural Assets. Additionally, the Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) launched to prioritize greenspace in Central Ohio development.
 - Ms. Vonstein also discussed LINKUS and the MORPC Attributable Funds Committee's (AFC) role in advancing COG.

- Proposed 2025 trail miles focus on urban-rural connections, links to State Parks, and Gateways. The presentation concluded by reviewing Trails and Gateways of Regional Significance.
- A committee member asked how our network compares to other peer regions. Ms. Vonstein responded that Central Ohio has a solid foundation for a connected regional network that stands out compared to other peer regions because we began building trails along our waterways to protect them from development in the 1960s. Since we have steadily been adding to those trails throughout the decades. Some other regions claim to have more trails than Central Ohio, but they are also counting both regionally significant trails and locally significant loops and other bikeways. The Central Ohio Greenways total mileage only includes the regionally significant, cross jurisdictional, major trails that serve as the backbone of our robust active transportation and recreation system.
- A committee member asked how many trail miles our region typically builds per year. Ms. Vonstein responded that prior to 2022, MORPC was allocating \$2-4 million every two years, which usually equates to 1-2 miles of trails or stand along bike/ped facilities annually. Thanks to LinkUS and MORPC's prioritization of bike/ped facilities, we are entering a transformational era of trail building in our urbanized area which will allow us to build about 50 miles in 5 years.
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Expansion
 - Ms. Schaper explained that federal regulations require the MPO boundary to include the current Census urbanized area and the area likely to be urbanized within the next 20 years. This 20-year forecast is covered by the transportation plan. Revisions to MPO boundaries require coordination with ODOT and the Governor's approval.
 - Growth between 2010 and 2020 led to the expansion of the Census-identified Urban Area. The 2020 Boundary includes part of Plain City and is adjacent to Johnstown. The MPO boundary is expanding to include Plain City and Johnstown to align with their jurisdictional boundaries. This expansion has several implications, including:
 - Committee Representation: Plain City and Johnstown will have representation in relevant committees.
 - Funding Eligibility: The areas will become eligible for MORPC-Attributable Funds.
 - Planning Documents: The expanded boundary will be incorporated into planning documents like the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
 - Ms. Schaper concluded, outlining the next steps in the boundary expansion process, including a resolution going before the committees in March and coordination with the Governor's office. Updated maps will be sent to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the new boundary will be incorporated into planning processes and documents going forward.

VI. Other Business

- Ms. Schaper shared the committee accomplishments for 2024.

- The committee held eight meetings with remote options and adopted fourteen transportation resolutions. Updates to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, COTA, and Delaware County Transit were provided.
- Highlights from the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) were discussed, including the adjusted urban area boundary.
- Four amendments were passed for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The committee accepted the Planning Work Program for State Fiscal Year 2025, and the completion report for State Fiscal Year 2024.
- Several informational updates were provided to the committee.
- Chair Synk asked the committee to reach out to Chuck Ratliff at cratliff@morpc.org if they do not want their contact information shared with other members.
- Chair Synk explained that multiple ideas were being considered for committee members to be presented with additional information for their review, including the potential creation of sub-committees for specific work products or development of lunch and learn style meetings on different topics.

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Maria Schaper, Secretary
Community Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

February 2025

MOBILITY & DEVELOPMENT

Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Development Officer – pagrawal@morpc.org

Transportation

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

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Ensured work on the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development was consistent with the 2024-2050 MTP.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- In partnership with COTA, we presented services available for seniors at the AARP event held at the Bexley library. Attendees were provided with information about Gohio Commute Mobility and COTA's services.
- Participated in planning meetings for the State Highway Safety Action Plan's Older Road User subcommittee with ODOT, Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), and other stakeholders.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- Awards from the 2024 cycle are being finalized with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), with approval and execution of funding agreements expected this spring.

Gohio Commute

- Began working with Federal employees to provide transportation options for the return to full-time in-person employment. Continued to provide information to employees and employers about all options in Central Ohio for work commutes.
- Presented at the February Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN) meeting about sustainable workforce mobility options to Rickenbacker area.
- Currently beta testing a new Gohio Commute app which will offer advanced features such as localized language.
- Started creating a focused advertising campaign about workforce mobility options in Franklin County to address the needs of the 50,000 employees returning to the workforce in May and June of 2025. This campaign will run from May through June.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- In tandem with COTA, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and other local agencies, MORPC is supporting the implementation of portions of LinkUS, including the transit-supportive infrastructure (TSI) program. MORPC will be working with project sponsors to finalize TSI Program funding agreements and plan for future program updates.

Passenger Rail

- MORPC continues to engage with statehouse leaders, peer agencies, and other advocates to elevate passenger rail planning capacity at the state level. This includes additional resources to support continued Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP) planning, establishing an Office of Passenger Rail within the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), and Ohio membership in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC).
- The CIDP work for the Midwest Connect Route is progressing. The draft deliverables for Step 1 of the program, which includes a scope of work, schedule, and anticipated budget for the multi-year planning phase are now under review by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Step 2, service development planning, is expected to begin this summer.
- The next meeting of the Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee will be held at MORPC on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- The development of the SFY 26-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has continued. A final draft will be made available for public comment on March 10, 2025.
- Team members participated in the following CORPO region transportation planning studies and activities:
 - Union County Greenways Master Plan Update
 - Northern Pickaway County Transportation Study
 - State Route 161 Corridor Discussion
 - Silicon Heartland Transportation Partnership Meeting (20 & 40-minute groups)

Active Transportation Planning:

- MORPC and ODOT District 6 kicked off an Active Transportation Study for the U.S. 23 Corridor between I-270 and Waldo with a stakeholder workshop on February 3, 2025. This study will complement the concepts identified in the Route 23 Connect Preliminary Feasibility Study to ensure continued access along and across the corridor for people walking and bicycling.
- MORPC was awarded \$136,400 in funding from ODOT's Special Active Transportation Solicitation to conduct the full proposed scope of the U.S. 23 Active Transportation Study.
- Completed Complete Streets project review for ODOT Project ID (PID) 116785 Sunbury Rd- Big Walnut Trail - Stage 2
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
 - ODOT Active Transportation Conference planning committee meeting on February 24, 2025.
 - Regional Shared Mobility meeting on February 25, 2025.
 - Whitehall Active Living Assessment meeting on February 26, 2025.

Transportation Safety:

- MORPC collaborated with COTA and ODOT to host a workshop on February 4, 2025, to discuss a pilot project on Safe System design for the East Main Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor. The pilot will follow the framework established in National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) 1036: A Guide to Roadway Reallocation, and will be conducted as part of the NCHRP Implementation Support Program through NCHRP 20-44.
- Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings and safety-related events:
 - Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Older Road User working group meeting on February 12, 2025.
 - Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation (COAST) meeting on February 13, 2025.
 - OARC Transportation Safety Subcommittee meeting on February 18, 2025.
 - Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) Technical Council meeting on February 20, 2025.

Technical Assistance Program:

- Work has begun on the four Technical Assistance services for 2025. Initial stakeholder meetings are being scheduled and will be held in March and April.
- The MORPC Technical Assistance (TA) Program dashboard will be available for viewing on the TA Program web page at www.morpc.org/programs-services/technical-assistance-program/. This dashboard highlights all the TA program services that have been completed since the program's inception and provides access to the deliverables from each completed service.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The March TIP amendment, amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 24-27 TIP, was prepared.
- The development of the State Fiscal Year 26-29 TIP has continued. A final draft will be made available for public comment on March 10, 2025.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- The public comment period for the draft funding recommendations approved by the Attributable Funds Committee (AFC) in December 2024 concluded on February 12, 2025. MORPC received 118 comments which were largely supportive of the funding recommendations. No modifications to the draft funding recommendations were made as a result of the public comments.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- At their February 26, 2025 meeting, the TRAC voted on additional funding for four projects in the MPO area which have existing TRAC funding commitments. A draft program is scheduled to be approved for public comment at TRAC's meeting on March 26, 2025, followed by a public comment period. The final vote on the funding program is expected to take place on April 23, 2025.

Federal Competitive Programs

- The United States Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program closed on January 30, 2025. MORPC provided letters of support for two Central Ohio grant applications, City of Heath's Thornwood Drive Planning Project and Franklin County Engineer's Office Alum Creek Drive project.
- MORPC has established a process for letters of support requests. The process will not only help Central Ohio communities and partners receive MORPC's support letters in a timely manner but also

helps staff track and record the letters provided for different funding opportunities. You can find the link here: <https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/funding-opportunities/>.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
 - February 10, 2025: Energy and Environmental Policy: State and Federal legislation and the impact on municipalities/counties: Tony Long/Ohio Chamber of Commerce
 - February 17, 2025: Presidents' Day (No Money Mondays)
 - February 24, 2025: U.S. Department of Transportation's \$27 Million Available for Rural and Tribal Community Technical Assistance Grants, Susan L Wilson, AICP | Program Manager, Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, Build America Bureau | U.S. Department of Transportation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- MORPC held its Q1 CEDS Committee meeting on February 20, 2025. Besides an update from MORPC's Padmini Roy-Dixon on the work of the Economic development office, other presenters included Matt McCollister from One Columbus and Lexi Heidish from the Pickaway Progress Partnership who shared information on the Anduril project, MORPC's Parag Agrawal spoke about planning efforts around Anduril's project, and Jeff Gottke presented on Knox County's unique approach to comprehensive planning for its smaller villages.
- MORPC's Leaders Listen survey on Economic Development closed in January. The Economic Development office is collaborating with Data and Mapping to analyze the data and finalize key findings which will be announced at the State of the Region event.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- MORPC's leadership shared existing Competitive Advantage Projects during their meetings with Central Ohio's Congressional delegation in D.C. These project snapshots help elected officials better understand regional priorities as they relate to infrastructure, transportation, and other strategic priorities.

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.

Freight Planning:

- The Economic Development office is building a stronger relationship with the Columbus Region Logistics Council (CRLC) and the Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN). The team attended a REAN meeting on February 19, 2025 where employer concerns on workforce mobility in the Rickenbacker area were the primary topic of discussion.
- MORPC, in partnership with REAN and CRLC, are planning a tour of the Rickenbacker Area, a key transit, global trade and infrastructure asset. COTA and ODOT will also be participating in the tour.

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- MORPC was awarded \$325,000 from ODOT to create a Central Ohio Cycling Guide. This will include an updated bike level-of-stress map and a tourism focused cycling guidebook.
- The COG Board met on January 15, 2025, to review and adopt an updated vision that includes over 1,000 miles of existing, proposed, and committed trail projects in 15 counties. In March, the COG Board will welcome new COG board members and set goals for the next two years.
- In 2025, COG will begin adding Gateways of Regional Significance to the map to identify existing and proposed locations for premier trailheads that offer the amenities trail users need to travel the trails safely and comfortably.
- The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program in partnership with Experience Columbus. The initial draft of the brand will be shared during the March 10, 2025 meeting. The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus continues to be a popular program with hundreds of new sign-ups and check-ins monthly. This year, the city of Grove City, the city of London, and the city of Mount Vernon will be offering new curated itineraries accessible within the updated Outdoor Trails Pass.
- COG is considering opportunities to utilize a statewide trail mapping platform named Outerspatial that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has recently begun utilizing. Outerspatial is providing a regional pricing schedule for MORPC's review in November.
- COG posted a Detours & Closures document on the COG website and the Trail Development Working Group is now available to offer detour design technical assistance.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee finalized the project. It will be available on the COG website soon. COG staff will begin sharing the results widely over the next two months.
- 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 is the first community to be awarded this support.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) is crafting COG Forums for 2025.
- COG is encouraging communities to host Celebrate Trails Day events within their communities on April 26, 2025. Rails to Trails Conservancy is offering free drinks and marketing materials.
- GPS is encouraging communities to consider joining Ohio's America 250 program.
- GPS is developing project priorities for four workshops in 2025.
- 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 working groups continue to prioritize their goals for 2025.
- The Steering Committee met on February 12, 2025, to hear updates from the working groups and efforts related to Central Ohio Greenways. The Steering Committee was also informed of MORPC staff changes to the working groups.

- Some members of the User Experience Working Group have had to be less involved due to increased workloads outside of the working group. As a result, the User Experience and Water Trail Designation Working Groups will be combined due to their closely related goals.
- The Environmental Stewardship Working Group is focusing on assembling guidance for Onion Bag Project Installations. The Group is currently reviewing a draft implementation guide for the installation of Onion Bag Project installations. This group meets monthly. The next meeting will be on February 24, 2025.
- The Water Trail Designation / User Experience Working Group is continuing to advance the formation of a hazard removal consortium. The group is currently discussing the various details to include in a potential cooperative agreement and trying to identify organizations who engage in hazard removal to contact for quotes.
- The Water Trail Designation Working Group is refining an editable field map to distribute to communities along the waterways so that they can provide details on the amenities at access points, and any useful information on the waterways' navigability and seasonality.

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.

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 Jessica Kuenzli for more information at jkuenzli@morpc.org.

Community Based Planning Assistance:

- The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be a resource for members, and are always looking for ways to improve to better serve your needs. Members can learn more and request assistance from the program by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance> or contacting Jessica Kuenzli at jkuenzli@morpc.org.

Consultant Services Program

- The Consultant Services Program assists communities with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process through the drafting of RFP documents, prequalifying consultants in the eligible program areas, reviewing initial proposals and facilitating final presentations.
- Each year, the Consultant Services Program prequalifies Consultants to submit proposals for and complete work on long-range planning projects initiated by communities in Central Ohio. Eligible project types include the completion of, or updates to, comprehensive planning and zoning codes, economic development activities, public engagement, neighborhood or area plans, housing action plans, active transportation plans, and parking plans or assessments.
- The Community Development team has reviewed and identified pre-qualified entities for 2025 under our Consultant Services Program. New eligible services include cost estimating and feasibility studies; additional information, including the list of consultants, can be found at: <https://www.morpc.org/consultant-services-program/>.

- If you have an RFP that you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, please contact consultantservices@morpc.org for additional information.

Planner Pool Program

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance through the Planner Pool Program. If you are interested in additional staffing support related to planning, zoning, and/or sustainability, please contact Jessica Kuenzli to schedule a time to discuss your community's needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.
- MORPC is assembling a list of fixed-fee services that relate to the most common issues communities in Central Ohio are experiencing. Suggestions on potential services are greatly appreciated and can be directed to Jessica Kuenzli at jkuenzli@morpc.org.

STEPZ Workshop

- Planning Staff is organizing the second installment of the STEPZ Workshops, STEPZ: Planning Staff. This workshop will be held in May 2025. 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 at talam@morpc.org.

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee:

- The next SAC meeting will take place on March 19, 2025, at the City of Grandview Heights Parks building. The member appointment process has been completed, and the committee will welcome three new members: Niki Lemin with Ohio EPA, Stephen Harris with SOPEC, and Reynoldsburg City Council Member Erin Hill. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

- The sub-committee held their fifth meeting on February 19, 2025, and provided input on proposed strategies for Goals 2 and 3. The MORPC team also proposed a mission statement to capture the overarching themes across the agenda. Sub-committee members will continue their work to review strategies in preparation for their next meeting on March 25, 2025. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustainable2050:

- The City of Gahanna was recognized for recertifying as a Gold Plus Equity Champion under MORPC's Sustainable2050 program. Their Community Choice Aggregation Program, recycling efforts, Link-to-Literacy Trail, and new municipal complex reimaged from an existing building were among the highlights. The Q1 2025 Sustainable2050 meeting will be hosted at MORPC on March 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. featuring a presentation from MurphyEpson on how to better engage residents around sustainability initiatives.
- 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:

Regional Water Advisory Council (formerly Sustaining Scioto Board)

- The first Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) meeting will be held in April 2025. MORPC continues to collate a stakeholder list that includes representation from the 15-county region. The RWAC will provide leadership in the planning, management, stewardship and resiliency of waters in the region while ensuring clean and abundant water is readily available for everyone in Central Ohio in the face of a changing climate, growth, and development.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

- The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team will meet on April 3, 2025.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- District 3 – Franklin County
 - The District 3 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) will meet on March 20, 2025, to approve the methodology and schedule for FY 26. District 3 has approximately \$3.5 million in COCP funds in the upcoming cycle.
 - For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.
- District 17 – Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties
 - The District 17 Natural Resource Assistance Council met on January 17, 2025, to approve the schedule, workplan and methodology for FY 26. The district has approximately \$2.5 million available in the FY 26 cycle. Final applications are due on September 19, 2025.
 - For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow and Pickaway counties, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org.

Regional Water Study

- The Central Ohio Regional Water Study will be concluded at the end of this month.
- MORPC and Ohio EPA are partnering on a rollout event on April 17, 2025. There will be more details to come.
- Webinar recordings and slide deck information from prior meetings are available.

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- MORPC continues to engage the ad hoc 208 Review Process Committee to consider the state's request for MORPC to become a designated Areawide Planning Agency. Among other tasks, the Committee continues to review and provide input on key decisions, such as the operational structure and procedures. The committee is on schedule to complete the initial steps for establishing an Areawide Planning Agency needed for MORPC Board consideration. Following approval, MORPC will work with the Ohio EPA to conduct a public engagement process with affected stakeholders.

Energy Planning:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group held its first meeting of the year on February 26, 2025. In addition to updates on air quality, energy, legislation, and the Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee, the Working Group heard from Zach McGuire, the Executive Director of the Columbus Region Green Fund. Zach discussed the current challenges and opportunities financing clean energy projects in the region. The EAQWG's next meeting is on Wednesday, May 28 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If interested in attending or being a featured speaker, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC has selected Heartland Charging Services to assist with executing the scope of work of its \$2 million USDOT-FHWA Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) award to repair and/or replace non-operational EV chargers throughout the 15-county region.
- Concurrently, MORPC is awaiting to finalize the grant agreement with FHWA on its \$15 million MORE EVS project award to install over 400 EV charging ports in 13 counties as part of the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B Program.
- MORPC is closely monitoring the federal transition to see how these programs may be impacted.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

- The core project team, led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others, continues to advance the deliverables of the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the ten-county Columbus MSA. The project team is identifying strategies that will reduce pollution and serve as a roadmap for the Columbus MSA. The team will also plan for additional engagement with regional stakeholders to help inform the strategies. For more information, please visit the COCAP website or email Brian Filiatraut, Sr. Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality Alerts

- No Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region in February 2025.

US EPA funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project (CLEAN)

- The MORPC & Franklin County Public Health team have deployed 39 sensors into the community. With these in place, data collection for the EPA-funded project will begin and continue through Summer 2026. This data will be utilized by the project consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, to populate an online dashboard. The project team's focus will shift to education and outreach, with events being planned in April for Earth Month.

Outreach

- The Air Quality team met with stakeholders during sensor installations and outreach, including stakeholders from Franklinton Farms, the South Side Area Commission, Highland Youth Garden, Village of Hebron, Columbus Recreation and Parks, and Prairie Township.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

Dave Dixon, Director of Data Analytics & Strategy Planning – ddixon@morpc.org

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- RDAC met on January 7, 2025, 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, we hosted a record setting Data Day 2025 event. Shareable content from the event will be posted on the Data Day webpage on MORPC's website.
- Results for MORPC's Leaders Listen: Economic Development survey will be released at MORPC's State of the Region on March 21, 2025.

Working Groups & User Groups

- Cybersecurity Working Group
 - The working group met on January 28, 2025, to discuss takeaways from intake calls with four MORPC Member communities and one community stakeholder who have signed up to engage with the Working Group for assistance in advancing their cybersecurity objectives. The working group has shared out Cyber Ohio's State Aggregate Pricing Guide which outlines price discount which all MORPC member communities are eligible for on cyber products and services. Interested parties who have not already done so should complete a Cybersecurity Working Group Interest Form at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/fc8qz5y6zh>. The working group will meet next on February 25, 2025, to discuss the next steps in marketing services and assisting with new intakes.
- Data Day Working Group
 - Data Day 2025 was a great success, with its largest attendance to date. Over 180 attendees engaged with 16 breakout sessions and two keynote speakers. The Working Group is taking feedback and considering improvements for 2026. The working group is also looking for additional members. If you have any suggestions for members, themes, keynote speakers, or improvements for Data Day 2026, please contact Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.
- DEI & Data Working Group
 - The working group met on February 19, 2025, to review Data Day 2025 presentations and incorporate feedback into future communication endeavors. The working group also discussed potentially modifying the working group name to retain alignment objectives within the Expand & Include goal of the Regional Data Agenda while avoiding potentially divisive language with could detract from the work. The working group also discussed potential future initiatives around using data to ensure access and opportunity for all residents to green spaces and bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The group will meet next on March 19, 2025.
- Regional Data Coaches Working Group
 - At the Data Day event, the working group launched two Office 365 groups, Regional Data Coaches and Regional GIS Coaches. About 20 attendees signed up to join either or both listservs. The working group will meet again on March 20, 2025.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group
 - The group will meet on February 21, 2025 to review a draft statement of principles, and a series of fact sheets related to specific job quality standards, which will be tailored to organizations who engage with regional employers, including but not limited to local governments and workforce development boards. The group has been accepted to participate in the implementation phase of the Results for America Job Quality Fellowship and three group members will join other fellowship

participants at a conference in February to get feedback on ideas and learn from teams who are further along in their job quality efforts.

- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)
 - The group met at the MORPC office on February 26, 2025.
- Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)
 - At the January 7, 2025, RDAC meeting, MORPC received the go-ahead to update the RIDG charter and formality of the steering committee and chair. At the RIDG meeting on February 12, 2025, staff notified the RIDG attendees that the user group will begin to operate similarly to the COGUG.
 - At the February 12, 2025 meeting, students from the Translational Data Analytics Institute group presented on their project discussing value per acre based on available parcel and other data.
 - The next RIDG meeting is May 14, 2025, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The topic is still to be determined, but discussions are in progress with RDAC chair Christina Drummond and professors at OSU about data infrastructure and AI use cases and required organizational infrastructure.

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 to MORPC-produced content. MORPC staff are preparing content for the initial set of insights to be featured on the platform. The first set of insights are expected to be released on the platform by the end of February 2025.
- The team also pursued several continuous improvement efforts creating a:
 - universal data dictionary for commonly used fields, including full field-level metadata,
 - standard Python environment requirements file,
 - script to archive Ohio renewable energy data (RPS and DER),
 - script to archive alternative fuel station data,
 - script to archive national EV infrastructure data,
 - script to summarize MLS home sale records by arbitrary geographies.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

- Work continues on the initiative to improve the speed and quality of TAZ-level socioeconomic forecasts for the 2028 MTP cycle. MORPC 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

- The team is kicking off an effort to improve our methods for population estimates for sub-county jurisdictions. These estimates are used for computation of MORPC member dues, among other things. It is hoped that an alternative process will require less effort on the part of MORPC staff and member community staff without sacrificing accuracy. We are seeking feedback from MORPC member communities about possible alternatives. If you would like to participate, please contact dataandmaps@morpc.org.

- Analysis is finished for the latest Leaders Listen survey. Staff are preparing a report on key findings and intend to present the report and the findings at the State of the Region event in March. This is the first of a series of annual surveys, each of which will cover the same core content but rotate focus among other topics as well, including transportation, housing, and sustainability.
- Team members continue to manage the organization's air quality sensors in support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 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.
- 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 students recently completed the first semester of the two-semester course, in which they completed analysis planning and exploratory data analysis. 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.
- Created a map showing the locations, authorized personnel, and drive time ranges for Central Ohio military installations.
- The team is analyzing birth rates, marriage rates, and family demographics for Central Ohio communities in response to recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Mapping Activities

- Completed a Green Infrastructure Interactive map and public input form.
- Continued mapping of projects for the TIP report.
- Licking County land use updates.
- A map for the Ohio Department of Development meeting regarding HB315.
- A Corridor ID Legislative map containing Ohio General Assembly districts overlaid with proposed passenger rail lines for the state.
- We have received some renewed interest in MORPC's ArcGIS Urban model for online scenario planning. CURA was given access to perform analysis within the model.
- Met with Gohio Commute to discuss possible revisions to their online mobility application.
- A drive time map for the planned Anduril complex in Pickaway County was created.

Modeling Activities

- A new model of record was sent to ODOT.
- TIP Environmental Justice Analysis.
- TIP air quality conformity analysis.
- Processing traffic counts.
- MORPC will require 24-hour traffic count data for all traffic growth rate studies and area studies starting April 11, 2025. Staff presented this data requirement at the February TAC meeting and notified local members and the consultant team via email.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

News Releases:

- [MORPC Seeks Public Input on Amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Reflecting COTA Changes – MORPC.org](#) (2/13/2025)
- [City of Gahanna Recertified as Gold Plus Equity Champion Under MORPC's Sustainable2050 Program – MORPC.org](#) (2/14/2025)

MORPC in the News:

- [Ohio lags behind in EV public charging stations - Axios Columbus](#) (1/24/2025)
- [Here's what police chiefs are paid in Franklin County suburban cities](#) (1/25/2025)
- [COTA approves funding for West Broad Corridor BRT design - Columbus Business First](#) (1/29/2025)
- [COTA Approves \\$18M to Finalize Design of West Broad Corridor BRT, First of Three in LinkUs Initiative](#) (1/30/2025)
- [Bogey Inn to bounce back next year - Delaware Gazette](#) (1/30/2025)
- [Parks and Trails Committee picks up pace - Delaware Gazette](#) (2/4/2025)
- [Plumb Creek gets preliminary OK - Delaware Gazette](#) (2/6/2025)
- [Lancaster to receive a grant to reduce commercial traffic downtown](#) (2/7/2025)
- [No more NIMBY? Survey shows broad support for housing policy changes](#) (2/10/2025)
- [Bus Rapid Transit aims to change Columbus travel - Axios Columbus](#) (2/10/2025)
- [COTA expanding its operating hours past midnight in Downtown](#) (2/19/2025)

Digital Content:

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

- Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Water Quality; Internship Program, SOTR; Data Day; Member Monday; Black History Month; Attributable Funds; Active Transportation Study; Ohio Loves Transit Week; Valentine's Day; COMTO Coffee & Chat; City of Gahanna Sustainable2050; President's Day; Columbus Chamber; NARC; and MORPC News

Reach:

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

Top Posts:

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

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC is a member of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). On February 27, 2025, MORPC, COMTO, COTA and the John Glenn International airport partnered to host The Future of Transportation: Increasing Access and Bridging the Gap. This panel discussed upcoming innovation projects in our region such as LinkUS, Passenger Rail and the Airport expansion.
- Participated in Franklin County's Thrive Together Resource Fair on February 12, 2025. The purpose of this engagement was for community partners to provide essential programs, resources and support services to attendees. MORPC staff a table at the event and made valuable connections.

Social Media:

- Attributable Funds: [1/28](#), [2/7](#),
- State of the Region: [1/29](#),
- COMTO Coffee Chat: [2/11](#), [2/19](#),
- Transportation Improvement Program: [2/13](#)

Marketing Campaigns:

- To celebrate our diverse communities, we're highlighting our members with Member Monday, a social media campaign to spotlight the places and people that make our region special.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

Member Visits Completed

- Columbus Metropolitan Library - February 20, 2025
- City of Canal Winchester - February 20, 2025
- Brown Township February - 25, 2025

Communications

- Staffed a booth at the OSU-CRP career and internship fair on February 19, 2025.

Member Benefits

- Hosted Money Monday Session on MORPC's Grant finder services and other benefits on February 3, 2025.
- Managed the Grant Finder and Council of Development Finance Agencies benefit enrollment.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-2-25: **“Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”**

Proposed Resolution T-2-25 will add or modify six (6) projects to the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with commitments totaling over \$123 million. These changes are necessary to enable the projects to advance and to maintain fiscal constraint. In April, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will ask the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to amend the Statewide TIP to include these changes.

Continued maintenance of the TIP is a key element of implementing strategies in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects included in this amendment specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- MULTI 2: Maximize efficiency of existing transit terminals and construct new transit terminals, mobility centers and park and rides with safe bike, pedestrian, and vehicle access where there is a convergence of transit routes or intercity rapid speed transportation modes
- OP 5: Improve connections and coordination among transit system operators
- OP 7: Improve demand response transit service
- PRES 4: Replace transit vehicles that are beyond their useful life
- TRAN 2: Increase frequency on appropriate fixed route transit routes
- TRAN 5: Implement appropriate additional/innovative service to address first/last mile needs
- TRAN 6: Make neighborhoods transit supportive through infrastructure projects

Attachment 1 to the resolution provides a description of the funding and scope of the projects, including a description of the bicycle and pedestrian components.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

An explanation of the proposed changes to the TIP follows.

Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA): The following modifications to the TIP are being made for COTA projects:

- PID 118024: COTA Bus Shelters. Existing project with the addition of funds from an ODOT Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership (OWMP) Program award and Congressionally-Directed Spending. Total of \$700,000 added in SFY2025.
- PID 120543: COTA Preventive Maintenance. Existing project adding funds for COTA rolling stock preventive maintenance. Total of \$9,662,204 added in SFY2025, including \$7,729,763 of FTA Section 5307 funds.
- PID 123006: SFY2025 COTA OWMP Rickenbacker Hub Construction. New project with funds from an OWMP award for construction of an entry drive and canopy at the Rickenbacker Mobility Center to facilitate transfers between COTA and other transit services in the area. Total of \$1,251,428 added in SFY2025.
- PID 123080: SFY2025 COTA OWMP Late-Night Service. New project with funds from an OWMP award to restore late night services. Total of \$1,950,000 added in SFY2025.

Delaware County Transit (DCT): The following modifications to the TIP are being made for DCT projects:

- PID 118103: DCT 2025 Vehicle Replace. Existing project with the addition of funds from an OWMP award for vehicle replacements. Total of \$934,374 added in SFY2025.
- PID 123025: DCT 2025 Planning. New project with funds from an OWMP award for a workforce transportation study. A total of \$175,000 was added in SFY2025.

The additions and modifications to the TIP via this amendment represent the reallocation of existing funding as well as new funding being made available to local agencies. Below is a summary of the funding modifications as part of this TIP amendment:

Funding Source	Funding Change
Federal Discretionary (Congressionally-Directed Spending)	\$320,000
FTA Section 5307	\$7,729,763
ODOT Transit (OWMP)	\$3,290,516
ODOT Transit (Urban Transportation Program)	\$3,018,960
Local	\$313,767
Total	\$14,673,006

Attachment: Proposed Resolution T-2-25

RESOLUTION T-2-25

“Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) adopted the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Resolution T-5-23; and

WHEREAS, four project modifications to the 2024-2027 TIP have been identified as needed for Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) projects as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, two project modifications to the 2024-2027 TIP have been identified as needed for Delaware County Transit (DCT) projects as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, the projects are consistent with the transportation policies, plans, and programs, including the most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting March 3, 2025, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 5, 2025 recommended approval of this resolution to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That the MORPC SFY 2024-2027 TIP be amended to include the project information as shown in Attachment 1.
- Section 2. That it affirms that the fiscal balance of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP is maintained.
- Section 3. That the determination of conformity between the TIP and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is hereby reaffirmed, as all six projects are exempt from air quality conformity requirements.
- Section 4. That it affirms that the amendment was developed in compliance with the transportation performance measures as described in Section 6 of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP as modified.
- Section 5. That this resolution will be transmitted to ODOT and all sponsoring agencies in Attachment 1 for appropriate action.
- Section 6. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Mobility & Development Staff

Attachment 1: Amended Project Information for the SFY 2024-2027 TIP

Resolution T-2-25

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: COTA

PID: 118024

TIP ID: 315

MTP ID: 142

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-COTA-Bus Shelters

Length (mi.):

Project Type(s): Transit

Air Quality: Exempt

Description: COTA Bus Shelters, Transit

Bike Components: Maybe - To be determined.

Ped Components: Transit shelters.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>ALI</u>
2024	Transit	Local	\$650,000	11.32.10
2025	Transit	Federal	\$320,000	11.32.10
2025	Transit	Local	\$140,000	11.32.10
2025	Transit	STBG-S	\$240,000	11.32.10
2026	Transit	Local	\$650,000	11.32.10
Total:			\$2,000,000	

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G* indicates a grouped project.

Resolution T-2-25

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: COTA

PID: 120543

TIP ID: 449

MTP ID: 200

Co-Route-Sec: COT-Prev Maint 2024-2027-

Length (mi.):

Project Type(s): Transit Activity

Air Quality: Exempt

Description: Prev Maint 2024-2027, Transit Activity

Bike Components: Not applicable.

Ped Components: Not applicable.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>ALI</u>
2024	Transit	State	\$3,040,382	11.7A.00
2024	Transit	Sec 5307	\$8,527,750	11.7A.00
2024	Transit	Sec 5307	\$17,077,085	11.7A.00
2024	Transit	Local	\$2,131,938	11.7A.00
2024	Transit	Local	\$1,228,889	11.7A.00
2025	Transit	Sec 5307	\$20,000,000	11.7A.00
2025	Transit	Local	\$1,981,040	11.7A.00
2025	Transit	State	\$3,018,960	11.7A.00
2026	Transit	Sec 5307	\$20,000,000	11.7A.00
2026	Transit	Local	\$10,000,000	11.7A.00
2027	Transit	Local	\$10,000,000	11.7A.00
2027	Transit	Sec 5307	\$20,000,000	11.7A.00
Total:			\$117,006,044	

Agency: COTA

PID: 123006

TIP ID: 496

MTP ID: 1711

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-COTA-2025 OWMP Rickenbacker

Length (mi.):

Project Type(s): Transit

Air Quality: Exempt

Description: S2025 COTA OWMP Rickenbacker Con, Transit

Bike Components: Not applicable.

Ped Components: Not applicable.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>ALI</u>
2025	Transit	STBG-S	\$1,001,142	11.33.02
2025	Transit	Local	\$250,286	11.33.02
Total:			\$1,251,428	

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G* indicates a grouped project.

Resolution T-2-25

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: COTA

PID: 123080

TIP ID: 498

MTP ID: 200

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-COTA-2025 OWMP Late-Night Service

Length (mi.):

Project Type(s): Transit Operating

Air Quality: Exempt

Description: S2025 COTA OWMP Late-night Service, Transit Operating

Bike Components: Not applicable.

Ped Components: Not applicable.

State Fiscal Year

Phase

Source

Amount

ALI

2025

Transit

Local

\$975,000

30.80.01

2025

Transit

STBG-S

\$975,000

30.80.01

Total: **\$1,950,000**

Agency: DCT

PID: 118103

TIP ID: 332

MTP ID: 142

Co-Route-Sec: DEL-DCT-2025 Vehicle Replace

Length (mi.):

Project Type(s): Transit

Air Quality: Exempt

Description: DCT 2025 Vehicle Replace, Transit

Bike Components: Bicycle racks.

Ped Components: Not applicable.

State Fiscal Year

Phase

Source

Amount

ALI

2025

Transit

STBG-S

\$467,187

11.13.04

2025

Transit

STBG-S

\$467,187

11.12.04

2025

Transit

STBG-S

\$178,513

11.12.04

Total: **\$1,112,887**

Agency: DCT

PID: 123025

TIP ID: 497

MTP ID: 200

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-DCT-2025 OWMP Planning

Length (mi.):

Project Type(s): Transit

Air Quality: Exempt

Description: DCT 2025 Planning, Transit

Bike Components: Not applicable.

Ped Components: Not applicable.

State Fiscal Year

Phase

Source

Amount

ALI

2025

Transit

STBG-S

\$140,000

44.22.00

2025

Transit

Local

\$35,000

44.22.00

Total: **\$175,000**

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G* indicates a grouped project.

Resolution T-2-25

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Summary of Funding Sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Local	Local Public Agency	\$28,042,153
STBG-S	Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership (OTPP)	\$178,513
STBG-S	Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership (OWMP)	\$3,290,516
State	State Transit Assistance	\$6,059,342
Federal	Congressionally-Directed Spending (Transit)	\$320,000
Sec 5307	Federal Transit Formula Block Grants	\$85,604,835
Grand Total:		\$123,495,359

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G* indicates a grouped project.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-3-25: **“Adopting MORPC-Attributable Funding Commitments”**

Proposed Resolution T-3-25 completes the biennial process of soliciting, reviewing and recommending requests for MORPC-attributable transportation funding. Attachment 1 to the proposed resolution is a summary of all the recommended commitments of MORPC-attributable funding for SFY 2025 and beyond.

Each year MORPC receives an allocation of approximately \$48 million of federal transportation funds for use in Central Ohio. MORPC-attributable funds come from three federal programs, which originated with ISTEA and continued under TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU, MAP-21, the FAST Act, and now the IIJA. These programs are:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), formerly the Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) – part of large MPO CMAQ program
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Additionally, the IIJA added a fourth program, the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which MORPC receives an allocation of annually.


MORPC adopted updated policies for allocating and managing MORPC-attributable funds by the passage of Resolution T-5-24. Consistent with the policies, MORPC staff solicited and received applications for these funds during the spring of 2024. Over the past several months, the Attributable Funds Committee and staff members evaluated the applications to make funding recommendations.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary



While MORPC directly allocates its suballocation of STBG, TAP, and CRP funds to the recommended projects, CMAQ funding is allocated through a separate statewide process between the eight large MPOs in Ohio. This resolution directs staff to work within the large MPO CMAQ process to secure CMAQ funding for the eligible projects recommended via this resolution.

The funding recommendations were made available for public review and comment from January 13, 2025, to February 12, 2025. MORPC received a total of 118 comments on the funding recommendations. These comments were generally supportive of the funding recommendations, though a small proportion of comments expressed opposition to specific projects. Additionally, many of the comments provided specific design suggestions for project sponsors to consider when advancing their projects. All comments were provided to the Attributable Funds Committee for their review, and no modifications to the funding commitments were made as a result of these comments.

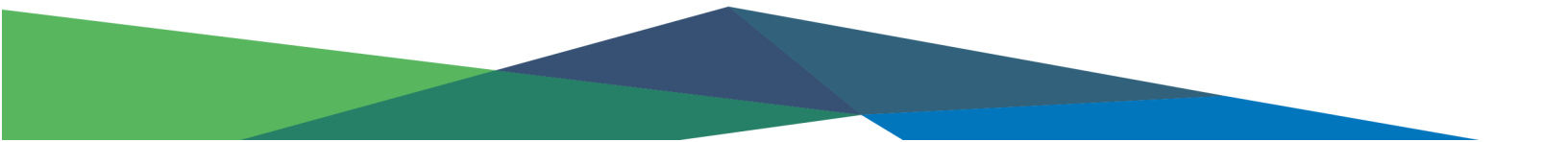
Several projects in the portfolio of MORPC-Attributable Funding projects are anticipated to be ready for construction ahead of the fiscal year in which funding will be available. Accordingly, the resolution directs staff to work to identify solutions to make funding available earlier when projects are ready. This could include working with the sponsor on a financing mechanism and/or pursuing a loan from another metropolitan planning organization in the state.

In summary, as shown in the table below, Resolution T-3-25 commits approximately \$345 million in MORPC-attributable federal funding for SFY 2025 and beyond. This is for 38 projects or activities throughout the MORPC transportation planning area, 31 of which are continuations of previous commitments and 7 of which are new commitments.

Summary of Funding Recommendations

	Total (Millions)
Previous Commitments & Cost Increases	\$293
New Commitments	\$52
Total Recommended for Funding	\$345
Total of Requests Not Recommended for Funding	\$122
Total for All Requests	\$467

Attachments: Proposed Resolution T-3-25



RESOLUTION T-3-25

“Adopting MORPC-Attributable Funding Commitments”

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus urban area; and

WHEREAS, the MPO is responsible for allocating certain federal transportation funds that are attributed to it; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee adopted Resolution T-10-97, "Principles for Allocation of MORPC-Attributable Federal Funding," in order to fairly allocate these funds in conformance with federal and state laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, it most recently adopted revised management tools in the Policies by Resolution T-5-24, “Adopting ‘Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds’”; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with these principles and policies, in May 2024 project applications were solicited to use MORPC-attributable funding, and the applications were reviewed by MORPC staff and the Attributable Funds Committee; and

WHEREAS, a draft list of MORPC-attributable funding recommendations was released for public review and comment on January 13, 2025, with the public comment period ending on February 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, 118 comments were received on the draft list of MORPC-attributable funding recommendations, which were largely supportive of the funding recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the projects, as shown in Attachment 1, are consistent with the transportation policies, plans, and programs, including the most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan adopted by the Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, MORPC will work within the large MPO CMAQ process to secure CMAQ funding for CMAQ-eligible projects; and

WHEREAS, to maintain fiscal balance, funds for construction of some projects are committed for a later State Fiscal Year (SFY) than when the project sponsor is currently expecting the project to be ready for construction; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 3, 2025 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 5, 2025, recommended approval of these funding commitments to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That it commits to allocating its attributable federal funding to the projects in the attached program of projects at the amounts and schedules shown in Attachment 1 pending continued availability of MORPC-attributable federal funding at the levels needed for the program.

- Section 2. That staff prepare the State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) consistent with the attached program of projects using MORPC-attributable funds through SFY 2029.
- Section 3. That it directs staff to prepare partnering or other appropriate agreements with project sponsors outlining the MORPC-attributable funding commitment.
- Section 4. That it directs staff to continue to actively participate in the large MPO CMAQ process to ensure the projects eligible for CMAQ shown in Attachment 1 receive CMAQ funds through the large MPO CMAQ process.
- Section 5. That it directs staff and project sponsors to attempt to provide construction funds when the project is ready through the management of the program and various financing mechanisms.
- Section 6. That this resolution will be transmitted to ODOT and all local agencies listed as sponsoring agencies in the attachments for appropriate action including ODOT reflecting the updated costs and schedules in Ellis.
- Section 7. That it emphasizes the importance of the project sponsors maintaining the project schedule and remaining within the current cost estimates, as there is no guarantee that additional MORPC-attributable funding or statewide CMAQ funding will be available should costs increase or the project be delayed.
- Section 8. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Mobility & Development Staff

Attachment:

1. Summary of Projects using MORPC-Attributable Funding for SFY 2025 and beyond
2. Map of Existing Commitments Proposed for Continued Funding
3. Map of Proposed Funding for New Project Requests

Resolution T-3-25 - Attachment 1 MORPC-Attributable Funding Commitments

Previous Commitments

Map ID	ODOT PID	Agency	Project Description	Construction SFY	Total 2025+	SFY 2025	SFY 2026	SFY 2027	SFY 2028	SFY 2029	SFY 2030/31*	SFY 2032+
119	115768	Columbus	Sancus Boulevard, from Worthington Woods Boulevard to Lazelle Road	2027	\$11,727,719		\$1,381,770	\$10,345,949				
118	115797	Columbus	Dublin-Granville Road (SR-161), from Ambleside Drive to Maple Canyon Avenue	2026	\$14,753,836	\$1,880,000	\$12,873,836					
117	115566	Delaware County TID	DEL-TR114-01.93 Orange Road under CSX/NS Grade Separation	2027	\$8,387,599			\$8,387,599				
123	115179	Franklin County TID	SR 161 and Linworth Road Improvements	2030*	\$12,001,593			\$4,800,000			\$7,201,593	
116	115646	Columbus	E. Broad Street, Outerbelt Street to Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road	2027	\$10,888,018	\$1,632,000		\$9,256,018				
339	119516	Franklin County	Cassady Ave from I-670 to Agler Rd, Minor widening (adding turn lanes), from 2 lanes to 3 lanes	2028	\$11,234,415		\$573,600		\$10,660,815			
340	119855	Columbus	SR 161 from Busch Blvd to Ambleside Drive, Minor widening (adding turn lanes)	2029	\$12,907,984			\$1,030,593		\$11,877,391		
341	115792	Franklin County TID	Alum Creek Drive (SR 317 to Groveport Road)	2028	\$10,500,000		\$500,000		\$10,000,000			
342	119514	Franklin County	Ferris Road from Karl Rd to Westerville Rd, Minor widening (adding turn lanes)	2027	\$3,116,976			\$3,116,976				
343	119852	Columbus	Hilliard Rome Rd at Renner Rd, Intersection modification	2029	\$4,252,403			\$814,949		\$3,437,454		
344	90200	Delaware County TID	Sunbury Pkwy, Phases B & C from Africa Rd to I-71, New roadway	2027	\$3,000,000			\$3,000,000				
345	119825	Upper Arlington	Zollinger Rd from Riverside Dr to North Star Rd, Bicycle lanes, from 4 lanes to 3 lanes	2027	\$3,339,428			\$3,339,428				
NA	101718	Johnstown	SR 37 at Leafy Dell Road, Intersection Improvements	2026	\$1,237,580		\$1,237,580					
718	105732	Columbus	Cassady Ave from CSX Railroad to north of E 7th Ave, Minor Widening	2025	\$9,093,802	\$9,093,802						
120	115410	Columbus	Downtown Signals, Rich Street Signal Replacements	2025	\$2,465,523	\$2,465,523						
121	115411	Franklin County	East Cooke Road Phase 1	2026	\$3,557,985		\$3,557,985					
427	121652	Columbus	Concrete Bus Pad Upgrades, , Reconstruction	2026	\$1,175,024		\$1,175,024					
346	119974	Bexley	Livingston Ave from IR 70 to Kellner Road, Resurfacing	2029	\$19,326,531			\$1,787,200		\$17,539,331		
347	119833	Columbus	17th Ave from IR 71 to Billiter Boulevard, Reconstruction	2028	\$7,559,525			\$480,000	\$7,079,525			
348	120256	Delaware	SR 37 from US 42 to Foley St, Reconstruction	2028	\$2,993,018		\$257,690		\$2,735,328			
349	119487	Licking County TID	Pike St from SR 310 to Proposed Highpointe mixed use development, Reconstruction	2026	\$3,199,495		\$3,199,495					
NA	105806	Powell	Sawmill Pkwy from Seldom Seen Rd to Home Rd, Resurfacing	2020**	\$188,967	\$188,967						
NA	103828	Dellaware County	Cheshire Rd & Africa Rd from Old State Rd to Lewis Center Rd, Resurfacing	2020**	\$2,254,934	\$1,127,467	\$1,127,467					
173	116500	COTA	COTA W Broad St High Capacity Transit Corridor, Transit service upgrades	2027	\$20,620,000	\$7,520,000		\$13,100,000				
Multiple	Multiple	Columbus	I-70/I-71 Innerbelt, Major Widening/Interchange Modification, Multiple Phases	2027	\$1,580,248			\$1,580,248				
122	116785	Columbus	Big Walnut Trail - Little Turtle to Cherrybottom Park/Alum Creek Trail	2026	\$7,092,344		\$7,092,344					
350	119997	Columbus	Big Walnut Trail from Refugee Rd to East Main St, Multi-use path	2028	\$8,855,144				\$8,855,144			
351	119846	Columbus	Sullivant Ave from Georgesville Rd to S. Wilson Rd, Multi-use path	2028	\$4,783,813		\$900,000		\$3,883,813			
352	119828	Columbus	McNaughten Rd from E Main St to Ganse Lane, Multi-use path	2028	\$9,039,088			\$1,600,000	\$7,439,088			
353	119688	Franklin County	Dublin Rd from Quarry Trails Metro Park to Limestone Ridge Dr, Multi-use path	2038	\$10,351,449				\$10,351,449			
354	119879	Metro Parks	Scioto Trail Bridge at SR 104, Multi-use path	2030*	\$8,504,869						\$8,504,869	
355	120103	Hilliard	Cemetery Rd from Britton Pkwy to Trueman Blvd, Multi-use path	2027	\$7,097,717	\$180,000		\$6,917,717				
356	120257	Whitehall	Fairway Blvd from East Main St to S Hamilton Rd, Multi-use path	2028	\$3,169,511				\$3,169,511			
357	119854	Columbus	SR 161 from Sawmill Rd to West of Linworth Rd, Multi-use path	2028	\$2,557,486		\$404,456		\$2,153,030			
358	119850	Columbus	Cassady Ave from Seventh Ave to Plaza Properties Blvd, Multi-use path	2028	\$3,532,225			\$395,000	\$3,137,225			
3089	98232	Columbus	Brice Road, from Chantry Drive to south of Channingway Boulevard	2025	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000						
1946	88310	Dublin	I-270 at US-33/SR-161, Interchange Modification	2015**	\$15,535,588	\$634,870	\$1,298,451	\$1,337,697	\$1,378,129	\$1,419,782	\$2,969,600	\$6,497,059
Multiple	Multiple	MORPC	Air Quality Awareness, Air Quality Project	NA	\$4,300,000	\$575,000	\$600,000	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$1,250,000	
Multiple	Multiple	MORPC	Technical Assistance Program	NA	\$2,200,000	\$275,000	\$300,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$650,000	
Multiple	Multiple	MORPC	Gohio, Ridesharing	NA	\$5,550,000	\$750,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$1,600,000	
Multiple	Multiple	MORPC	Regional Supplemental Planning, Planning Activity	NA	\$3,625,000	\$400,000	\$475,000	\$500,000	\$525,000	\$550,000	\$1,175,000	


New Commitments

103	123472	Columbus	East Broad Capital Trail	2031	\$9,328,863				\$920,000		\$8,408,863	
101	NP	Columbus	Trabue Road at Walcutt Road	2031	\$7,382,832				\$698,240		\$6,684,592	
105	122127	Dublin	The Emerald Connector	2030	\$4,500,000						\$4,500,000	
106	123549	Grove City	Southwest Regional Medical and Innovation Gateway Overpass	2030	\$2,625,000						\$2,625,000	
204	123475	Franklin County	Cooke Road, Phase 2 (Glenmawr Avenue to Karl Road)	2031	\$9,155,409				\$792,000		\$8,363,409	
301	112116	COTA	E. Main Street BRT	2030	\$14,400,000			\$5,600,000			\$8,800,000	
405	NP	Columbus	Big Walnut Trail- Cherrybottom Park to Morse Road	2030	\$4,730,373						\$4,730,373	

*Funding is SFY 2030/31 is not identified for a specific year. A specific year will be established when project updates are received and reviewed during the 2026 cycle


*To maintain fiscal balance, funds for construction of these projects are committed for a later State Fiscal Year (SFY) than when the project sponsor is currently expecting the project to be ready for construction. MORPC and project sponsors will attempt to provide construction funds when the project is ready through the management of the program and various financing mechanisms.

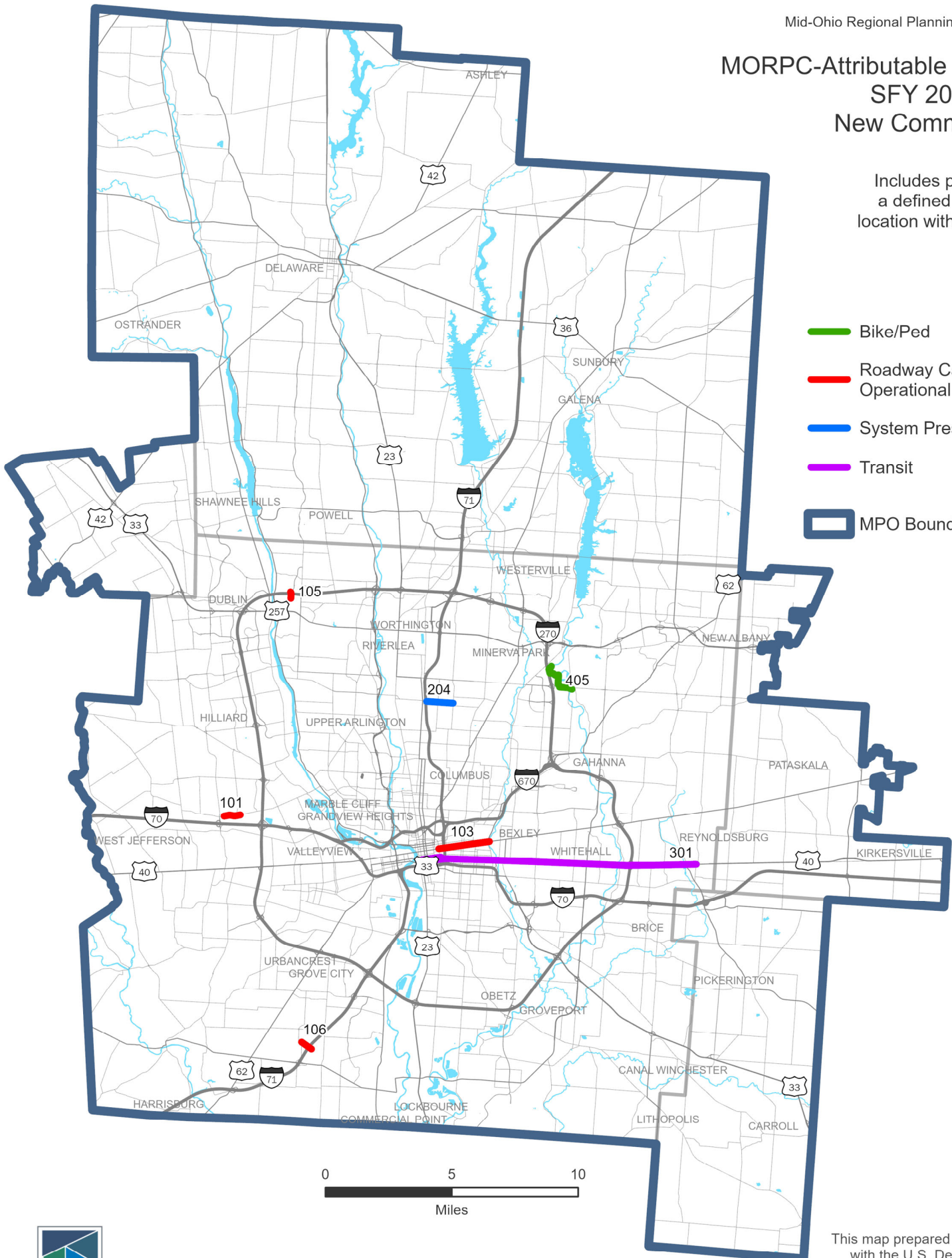
**Future funding commitments for these projects are to repay debt incurred when the project went to construction.

-  Bike/Ped
-  Roadway Capacity & Operational Changes
-  System Preservation
-  Transit
-  MPO Boundary



This map prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and local communities.

-  Bike/Ped
-  Roadway Capacity & Operational Changes
-  System Preservation
-  Transit
-  MPO Boundary



This map prepared in cooperation
with the U.S. Department of
Transportation's Federal Highway
Administration and Federal Transit
Administration, the Ohio
Department of Transportation, and
local communities.



MORPC

The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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2/18/2025



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-4-25: **“Adopting the Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)”**

Proposed Resolution T-4-25 expands the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary for transportation planning at MORPC to include the City of Johnstown and the Village of Plain City, effective July 1, 2025. Federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements define the areas to be included in the MPO, which is based on the census-defined urban area. The MPO boundary is reviewed every ten years following the U.S. Decennial Census.

The Columbus 2020 Census Adjusted Urban Area expanded to be contiguous with the City of Johnstown and the Village of Plain City, and these areas are likely to become urbanized within the twenty-year forecast period covered by the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, making the City of Johnstown and the Village of Plain City eligible MPO members in accordance with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the federal transportation legislation that governs the transportation planning process.

The City of Johnstown and the Village of Plain City have each acted locally to join the MORPC MPO, and close coordination continues among MORPC, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Licking County Area Transit Study (LCATS), and the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) to facilitate their respective transitions into the MORPC MPO.

The resolution also directs required planning agreements to be established between MORPC and each MPO community and that committee representatives be appointed as appropriate.

Attachments: Proposed Resolution T-4-25

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

RESOLUTION T-4-25

“Adopting the Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)”

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus urban area; and

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303 (Metropolitan Transportation Planning requirements) define the areas to be included in the MPO, which is based on the census-defined urban area; and

WHEREAS, MORPC's existing MPO boundary includes the political boundaries of Franklin County, Delaware County, Bloom and Violet Townships in Fairfield County, the Cities of New Albany and Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County, and Jerome Township in Union County; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus 2020 census adjusted urban boundary expanded to be contiguous with the City of Johnstown and the Village of Plain City, and these areas are likely to become urbanized within the twenty year forecast period covered by the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303 requires transportation planning agreements between MPOs and their communities. These agreements will be initiated for new and updated for existing political subdivisions within the MPO boundary; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 3, 2025 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 5, 2025, recommended approval of this resolution to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That it expands the MPO boundary to include the political subdivisions of the City of Johnstown and the Village of Plain City, effective July 1, 2025.
- Section 2. That it establishes new and updated agreements for all political subdivisions in the MPO boundary.
- Section 3. That the membership of the MPO policy body (Transportation Policy Committee) and other committees, will be reviewed to ensure that the added area has appropriate representation.
- Section 4. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 5. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Mobility & Development Staff
Authority: 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5303