



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

## NOTICE OF A MEETING

COMMISSION MEETING  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
*TOWN HALL*

**Thursday, March 13, 2025**  
**1:30 p.m.**

### ***Remote Option***

To join by video and see any screen sharing, click on “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” below. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams for the link to work.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 268 253 220 749

Passcode: k2XvQr

To participate by phone, use the conference call information below.

[+1 614-362-3056](#) Columbus

[\(888\) 596-2819](#) United States (Toll-free)

Phone conference ID: 356 398 203#

## AGENDA

1:30 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin, MORPC Chair)
  - **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
3. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
4. **Logan County Storm Recovery** – Joe Antram, Logan County Commissioner

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*

### Committees

5. **Bylaws Committee** – Haley Lupton (Village of Plain City), Bylaws Committee Chair
6. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Lourdes Barroso de Padilla (City of Columbus), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
  - **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
7. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
  - **Annual Air Quality Report** – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC Director of Sustainability
  - **Proposed Resolution 01-25: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program funding and enter into related subcontracts”** – Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning
8. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
  - a. **Call to Order** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
  - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report** – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Development Officer
  - c. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Expansion** – Maria Schaper, MORPC Transportation Study Director
    - **Proposed Resolution T-4-25: “Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Extension”**
  - d. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
    - 1) Approval of **February 13, 2025 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

- 2) **Proposed Resolution T-2-25:** “Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”
- 3) **Proposed Resolution T-3-25:** “Adopting MORPC Attributable Funding Commitments”

- e. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

## 9. Commission Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of **February 13, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes**
- b. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

## 10. Regional Development Update: Anduril – Matt McCollister, One Columbus Executive Vice President

## 11. Other Business

2:45 p.m.      **12. Adjourn** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

**PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR [ssaunders@morpc.org](mailto:ssaunders@morpc.org) IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

**The next Commission Meeting is**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2025, 1:30 p.m.**  
*111 Liberty Street, Suite 100*  
*Columbus, Ohio 43215*

**PARKING AND TRANSIT:** When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow “M”. Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. On Commission meeting days only, additional parking is available in numbered spaces toward the west end of the parking lot. Electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC southbound is High Street & W. Blenkner Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Ave./Refugee, and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. The closest stop to MORPC northbound is High Street & E. Hoster Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Avenue/Refugee and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. Accessible from the Courthouse stop by a quick walk are COTA lines 1, 2, 4, and CMAX.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

## MORPC Monthly Agency Report February 2025

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### Senior Directors

Parag Agrawal [pagrawal@morpc.org](mailto:pagrawal@morpc.org)  
Joe Garrity [jgarrity@morpc.org](mailto:jgarrity@morpc.org)  
Shawn Hufstedler [shufstedler@morpc.org](mailto:shufstedler@morpc.org)

Ralonda Hampton [rhampton@morpc.org](mailto:rhampton@morpc.org)  
Jessica Kuenzli [jkuenzli@morpc.org](mailto:jkuenzli@morpc.org)  
Robert Williams [rwilliams@morpc.org](mailto:rwilliams@morpc.org)

## CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY

### 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. The 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.

Team Members completed Complete Streets project review for the Sunbury Rd-Big Walnut Trail - Stage 2 project.

Team Members participated in the following active transportation meetings and events:

- ODOT Active Transportation Conference Planning Committee Meeting
- Regional Shared Mobility Meeting
- Whitehall Active Living Assessment Meeting

### 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 Ohio EPA to conduct a public engagement process.

### Regional Water Study

Consultants completed the Central Ohio Regional Water Study in February. MORPC and Ohio EPA are partnering on an April 17 rollout event. Previous webinar recordings and slide deck information can be accessed [here](#).

### Transportation Safety

MORPC collaborated with COTA and ODOT to host a workshop on February 4 to discuss a pilot project on Safe System design for the East Main Bus Rapid Transit 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 Older Road User Working Group Meeting
- Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation Meeting
- OARC Transportation Safety Subcommittee Meeting
- Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Technical Council Meeting

### Gohio Commute

Team Members began working with Federal employees to provide transportation options for the return to full-time in person employment. Staff began creating a focused advertising campaign about workforce mobility options to address the needs of the 50,000 employees returning to the workforce in May and June.

MORPC presented at the February Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network meeting about sustainable workforce mobility options to the Rickenbacker area.

Team Members are beta testing a new Gohio Commute app which will offer advanced features such as localized language.

### Technical Assistance Program

Team Members are scheduling initial stakeholder meetings for the four communities receiving Technical Assistance services in 2025.

The MORPC [Technical Assistance \(TA\) Program dashboard](#) is available for viewing. The 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.

### Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

ODOT awarded MORPC \$325,000 to create a Central Ohio Cycling Guide. This will include an updated bike level-of-stress map and a tourism focused cycling guidebook.

In March, the COG Board will welcome new COG board members and set goals for the next two years.

The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program in partnership with Experience Columbus. The initial draft of the brand was shared during the March 10 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 are offering new curated itineraries accessible within the updated Outdoor Trails Pass.

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.

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 that will be available on the COG website soon. Team Members will share the results 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.

COG is encouraging communities to host Celebrate Trails Day events within their communities on April 26. Rails to Trails Conservancy is offering free drinks and marketing materials.

The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) is crafting 2025 COG Forums and developing project priorities for four workshops. GPS is encouraging communities to consider joining Ohio's America 250 program. 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 Steering Committee met February 12 to hear updates from the working groups, learn about efforts related to Central Ohio Greenways, and was informed of MORPC Staff changes to the working groups.

- User Experience Working Group – due to unforeseen increases in workloads outside the working group, the group is being combined with the Water Trail Designation Working Group since their goals are closely related.

- Environmental Stewardship Working Group – the group is reviewing a draft implementation guide for the installation of Onion Bag Project installations.
- Water Trail Designation/User Experience Working Group – the group continues to advance the formation of a hazard removal consortium by 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 group is also 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

Team Members continue having conversations around housing issues with MORPC member communities. Staff continues 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. Team Members continue to identify ways to expand upon the previous work of the regional Housing Strategy.

If you are 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 ([jkuenzli@morpc.org](mailto:jkuenzli@morpc.org)).

### Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is March 19 at the City of Grandview Heights Parks Building. The member appointment process is complete. SAC will welcome three new members: Niki Lemini with Ohio EPA, Stephen Harris with SOPEC, and Erin Hill, Reynoldsburg City Council Member. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org).

- The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee met February 19 and provided input on proposed strategies for Goals 2 and 3. MORPC Team Members proposed a mission statement to capture the overarching themes across the agenda. The next meeting is March 25. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org).

### Sustainable2050

Sustainable2050 recognized the City of Gahanna for recertifying as a Gold Plus Equity Champion. 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 March 5 Sustainable2050 meeting featured 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 tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone ([bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org)). A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook is submitted and reviewed, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval.

### Regional Water Advisory Council (formerly Sustaining Scioto Board)

The first Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) meeting is in April 2025. MORPC continues to collate a stakeholder list that includes representation from the 15-county region. 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.

- The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team next meets April 3.

### Energy & Air Quality

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met February 26 and heard from Zach McGuire, Executive Director of the Columbus Region Green Fund. The next committee meeting is May 28. If interested in attending or being a featured speaker, contact Brian Filiatraut ([bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org)).

### Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

MORPC selected Heartland Charging Services to assist with executing the scope of work of its \$2 million U.S. DOT-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.



Team Members are waiting 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 U.S. DOT-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.

#### U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

The core project team led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others continue 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 is also planning for additional engagement with regional stakeholders to help inform the strategies. For more information, visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org).

#### Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/U.S. EPA Project

Team Members, in partnership with Franklin County Public Health, deployed 39 sensors. Data collection for the EPA-funded project will continue through Summer 2026. Project consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering, will use the data to populate an online dashboard. The focus now shifts to education and outreach, with events planned in April for Earth Month.

#### Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

RDAC hosted a record setting Data Day 2025 event. Content from Data Day will be posted on MORPC's website.

- **Cyber Security Working Group:** The Working Group met February 25 to discuss next steps in marketing services and assisting with new intakes. The group shared Cyber Ohio's State Aggregate Price Guide with MORPC member communities which are eligible for price discounts on cyber products and services.
- **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 group is also looking for additional members. If you have any suggestions for members, themes, keynote speakers, or improvements for Data Day 2026, contact Jordan Inskeep at [jinskeep@morpc.org](mailto:jinskeep@morpc.org).
- **D E I & Data Working Group:** The Working Group met February 19 to review Data Day 2025 presentations and incorporate feedback into future communication endeavors. The group also discussed potentially modifying the working group name and potential future initiatives around using data to ensure access and opportunity for all residents to green spaces and bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The next meeting is March 19.
- **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 next Working Group meeting is March 20.
- **Workforce and Job Quality Working Group:** The Working Group met February 21 to review a draft statement of principles and a series of specific job quality standards fact sheets, which are intended to be tailored to organizations that engage with regional employers, including but not limited to local governments and workforce development boards. The group is participating in the implementation phase of the Results for America Job Quality Fellowship and three Group Members joined other fellowship participants at a conference to get feedback on ideas and learn from teams who are further along in their job quality efforts.
- **Central Ohio GIS User Group:** The User Group met February 26.
- **Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG):** Students from the Translational Data Analytics Institute group presented their project discussing value per acre based on available parcel and other data at the February 12 RIDG meeting. The next meeting is May 14.

#### Data & Research Activities

Team Members continue to develop the MORPC Insights platform. Insights is 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. The platform is expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition to MORPC-produced content. MORPC completed development of the user interface for the platform and is preparing content for the initial set of insights. The first set of insights were expected to be released by the end of February.

Team Members are working 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.

MORPC is kicking off an effort to improve our methods for population estimates for sub-county jurisdictions. The 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, contact [dataandmaps@morpc.org](mailto:dataandmaps@morpc.org).

## DRIVE INVESTMENT

### Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

At their February 26 meeting, TRAC voted on additional funding for four projects in the MPO area with existing TRAC funding commitments. A draft program is scheduled for approval for public comment at TRAC's March 26 meeting, followed by a public comment period. The final vote on the funding program is expected on April 23.

### 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. Step 2, service development planning, is expected to begin this summer.

The next Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee meeting is March 11.

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

The CEDS Committee met February 20. Presentations included an update on MORPC's economic development work; information, and planning efforts around the Anduril project; and Knox County's unique approach to comprehensive planning for its smaller villages.

The Leaders Listen survey on Economic Development closed in January. Team Members are analyzing the data. Key findings will be announced at the March 21 State of the Region.

### Freight Planning

Team Members attended a Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN) meeting on February 19 where employer concerns on workforce mobility in the Rickenbacker area was the primary topic of discussion.

MORPC, in partnership with REAN, the Columbus Regional Logistics Council, COTA, and ODOT are planning a tour of the Rickenbacker Area.

### Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

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

### Federal Competitive Programs

The United States Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program closed January 30. 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 established a process for Letters of Support requests. To request a Letter of Support, click [here](#).



### 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 questions, contact Preston Frick at [pfrick@morpc.org](mailto:pfrick@morpc.org).

### LinkUS

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 work with project sponsors to finalize TSI program funding agreements and plan for future program updates.

### Mobility Management

In partnership with COTA, Team Members presented services available for seniors at the Bexley Library AARP event providing attendees with information about Gohio Commute Mobility and COTA's services.

MORPC participated in planning meetings for the State Highway Safety Action Plan's Older Road User subcommittee with ODOT, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and other stakeholders.

### FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

Team Members are finalizing awards from the 2024 cycle with the Federal Transit Administration. Approval and execution of funding agreements are expected this spring.

### Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

CORPO continued development of the SFY 26-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A final draft is available for public comment.

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

### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MORPC continues to develop the State Fiscal Year 26-29 TIP. A final draft is available for public comment.

### MORPC-Attributable Funding

The public comment period for the draft funding recommendations approved by the Attributable Funds Committee ended February 12. MORPC received 118 comments which were largely supportive of the funding recommendations. Team Members made no modifications to the draft funding recommendations as a result of the public comments.

### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

The District 3 (Franklin County) Natural Resources Assistance Council meets on March 20 to approve the methodology and schedule for Fiscal Year 2026. District 3 has approximately \$3.5 million available in the upcoming cycle.

The District 17 (Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties) Natural Resources Assistance Council met January 17 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 September 19.

For more information about Clean Ohio funding, contact Edwina Teye at [eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org) or visit our [website](#).

### Money Mondays

MORPC hosted the following Money Monday sessions:

- February 3 – MORPC Member Services
- February 10 – Energy and Environmental Policy: State and Federal legislation and the impact on municipalities/counties
- February 24 – FSWCD Community Backyard Program
- March 3 – Gohio Commute Program
- March 10 – Bricker & Graydon: Alternative Financing for Public Entities

Upcoming sessions:

- March 17 – Advancing Transit

## PAY IT FORWARD

### Membership Services

Team Members completed three member visits.

### Public Involvement & Engagement

Team Members participated in the following opportunities:

- OSU-CRP Career and Internship Fair

MORPC promoted the following through social media and our website: Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Water Quality; Internship Program, State of the Region; 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; Transportation Improvement Program; President's Day; Columbus Chamber, NARC; and MORPC News.

MORPC is a member of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). On February 27, MORPC, COMTO, COTA and the John Glenn International airport partnered to host The Future of Transportation: Increasing Access and Bridging the Gap. The panel discussed upcoming innovation projects in our region such as LinkUS, Passenger Rail and the Airport expansion.

Team Members participated in Franklin County's Thrive Together Resource Fair on February 12. The purpose of the engagement was for community partners to provide essential programs, resources, and support services to attendees.

### Events

MORPC hosted/held the following events:

- February 5 – Data Day
- February 27 – COMTO Coffee & Chat

### MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at [News – MORPC.org](#).

## BUILD VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS

### STEPZ Workshop

Team Members are organizing the second STEPZ workshop; *STEPZ: Planning Staff* for 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 ([talam@morpc.org](mailto:talam@morpc.org)).

### Community-Based Planning Assistance

The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be a resource for members, and we 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](mailto:jkuenzli@morpc.org).

### 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](mailto: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.

Team Members reviewed and identified pre-qualified entities for 2025. 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 a RFP you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, please contact [consultantservices@morpc.org](mailto:consultantservices@morpc.org) for additional information.

### Finance Updates

The annual financial audit has begun, conducted again this year by the Ohio Auditor of State's office.

### Personnel Updates

The following new Team Members recently started at MORPC:

- Temporary Accountant Christi Brown began February 4
- Transportation Planning Intern Arjun Kurup began February 12
- Temporary Customer Service Specialist Rodney Ryan began February 19
- Temporary MODE Executive Assistant Michelle Petties began February 25

MORPC is currently recruiting for open positions:

- Energy Auditor
- Human Resources Director
- 10 Summer Intern Positions

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

### RFP/RFQ Postings

The following RFP's/RFQ's were posted:

- HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Programs
- Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Programs

The full RFP/RFQs are available at <http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfqs/>.



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## Memorandum

**TO:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Executive Committee  
Officers and Board Members

**FROM:** Jessica Kuenzli  
Chief Regional Planning Officer & Sr. Director of Planning

**DATE:** February 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 01-25: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program funding and enter into related subcontracts”**

In December, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) applied for \$325,000 via the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT’s) Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program.

In February, MORPC was notified that their application was selected for funding. The application aims to update our Regional Bikeways Map for the first time in a decade with an enhanced “Central Ohio Cycling Travel Guide.” The final guide will include:

- A bike level stress map for the urbanized region
- A 15-county trail map to include a “subway style” map showcasing 7-10 curated cycling routes
- AI technology to assess route safety
- A Trail Town story map template

This project will be accomplished via MORPC staff and external consultants, under the oversight of MORPC staff. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by July of 2026.

Attachment: Resolution 01-25

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Interim Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Interim Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Interim Secretary

RESOLUTION 01-25

**“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program funding and enter into related subcontracts”**

WHEREAS, ODOT seeks to contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to enable updates to the Regional Bikeways Map with an enhanced “Central Ohio Cycling Travel Guide,” with final deliverables to include: a bike level stress map for the urbanized region; a 15-county trail map to include a “subway style” map showcasing 7-10 curated cycling routes; and a Trail Town story map template.

WHEREAS, the services performed pursuant to this contract will be under the oversight of MORPC and be implemented through a combination of MORPC staff and subcontracted organizations and consultants; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the executive director is authorized to enter into an agreement with ODOT for up to fifteen months to utilize ODOT Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation grant funds totaling \$325,000 and enter into related subcontracts.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.
- Section 3. 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 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Effective date: March 13, 2025  
Submitted by: Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer and Sr. Director of Planning  
Prepared by: Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer and Sr. Director of Planning  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: March 13, 2025



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.morpc.org](http://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, with assessment of MPO dues effective January 1, 2026.
- 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.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair

**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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Date

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



## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2025  
Time: 2:38 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Town Hall

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### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong	Shane Farnsworth	Bill LaFayette
Chris Amorose Grooms	Cindi Fitzpatrick	Haley Lupton
Ron Bullard	Pam Hykes O'Grady	Eric Meyer
Ben Collins	Laurie Jadwin	Rod Pritchard
Michelle Crandall	James Jewell	Mike Schadek
Christina Drummond	Carol Kauffman	Alana Shockey
Kristen Easterday	Emily Keeler	Joe Steager
Brad Ebersole	Ben Kessler	Trenton Weaver
David Efland	Benjamin King	Andrew Williams

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely**

Barry Adler	Dave Gulden	Sloan Spalding
Herb Asher	Daryl Hennessy	Brandon Standley
Jeff Benton	Christine Houk	Joe Stefanov
Michael Bivens	Joe Long	Erin Synk
Gary Burkholder	Glenn Marzluf	Andy Volenik
Greg Butcher	Steve Mazer	Cindy Wengerter
Tracie Davies	Eric Richter	Tim Wilson
Jeremiah Gracia	Kim Sharp	Kenneth Wright

### **Commission Members Present in Person**

Joe Antram	Greg Fitzpatrick	Matt Starr
Jamie Brucker	Brittany Misner	

### **Commission Members Attending Remotely**

Michelle Blanton	Mark Johns	Eric Phillips
Chasilyn Carter	Drenda Keese	Nick Shultz
Terry Emery	Mark Mauter	RC Wise
Bill Habig	Tom McCarthy	
Jeff Hall	Bill Narducci	

### **Associate Members Attending Remotely**

Kristin Sutton

### **MORPC Staff Present in Person**

Parag Agrawal	Jessica Keunzli	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Steve Armstrong	Eileen Leuby	Shari Saunders
Todd Bradley	Kelsey Matson	Maria Schaper
Dave Dixon	Amanda McEldowney	Melinda Vonstein
Preston Frick	William Murdock	Brandi Whetstone
Matika Fields	Alisa Obukhova	Robert Williams
Joe Garrity	Kyle Probert	
Ralonda Hampton	Melissa Rapp	

### **MORPC Staff Attending Remotely**

Emily Brown	Shawn Hufstedler
Kylie Davis	Karina Peggau

### **Guests Present in Person**

Grace Byler, Morrow County  
Matt Goodheart, City of Gahanna  
Mara Hunter, City of Gahanna

Cornell Robertson, The Mannik & Smith Group  
Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter  
Corey Wybensinger, City of Gahanna

**Guests Attending Remotely**

Mike Anderson, AECOM  
Andrew Beare, City of Delaware  
Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley  
Jennifer Morgan

Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter  
James Walker  
Brent Welch, FCEO

**Meeting Called to Order – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair**

Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Development Officer**

Parag Agrawal presented the [Metropolitan Planning Organization Report](#). Mr. Agrawal noted Resolution T-1-25 on the consent agenda amends the SFY 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP). The PWP serves as the budget for the MPO. We are adding three U.S. DOT grants received last year totaling \$4 million.

Mr. Agrawal shared information on grants the region received in the last few months, nearing \$54 million. MORPC Attributable Funding is federal MPO dollars that MORPC works with member communities to invest in infrastructure in Central Ohio. MORPC released a proposed list of transportation projects to receive approximately \$52 million for FY 2027-2031. The 30-day comment period ended yesterday. For the first time, an interactive map was provided so people can see the proposed projects. MORPC received more than 100 comments; 95 percent are in favor. Some of the comments would like to extend the projects. The comments will be passed along to the sponsoring agencies.

MORPC's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary currently includes all of Franklin and Delaware Counties, Jerome Township in Union County, Bloom and Violet Townships in Fairfield County, and Etna Township, Pataskala, and New Albany in Licking County. MPO boundaries are based on the Census Designated Columbus Urban Area. Based on growth patterns, the Village of Plain City and the City of Johnstown requested to join the MORPC MPO and passed resolutions through their local councils. The Village of Plain City is currently served by the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO), and the City of Johnstown is currently served by the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS). A resolution accepting them into the MPO will come before this Committee in March. Once the resolution is approved, MORPC will work with the Governor's Office and U.S. DOT to adjust the boundaries. MORPC's Transportation Study Director Maria Schaper is the project lead.

MORPC is working with ODOT on the Get Ready Initiative, a land use and transportation plan study for the 40-minute radius drive time from the proposed Intel site. MORPC hosted a workshop earlier this month. The conversation was on understanding local needs through agency coordination, expanding the regional travel demand model, and better understanding of the transportation issues around the site.

MORPC is partnering with ODOT District 6 to develop an Active Transportation Plan along the US 23 corridor in Delaware and Franklin Counties. ODOT is also conducting a study called US 23 Connect looking at various intersection improvements, widening lanes, and reducing the number of traffic lights from 39 to seven or less along a 23-mile stretch. The active transportation plan will include new sidewalks and bike trails. MORPC hosted a workshop on February 3.

To minimize traffic congestion and reduce the number of cars on the roadways, MORPC's Gohio Commute Program will run a focused campaign from May to June. The campaign will educate people on sustainable and cost-effective travel options such as carpooling, vanpooling, and transit.

California based Anduril selected a site in Pickaway County near the Rickenbacker International Airport to invest more than \$900 million and create 4,000 jobs in the next ten years. MORPC believes in proactive planning and wants to be ready to welcome the large development. Team Members created maps of 40- and 60-minute drive time distances. Approximately two million people live within the drive time distances of the proposed Anduril and Intel sites. MORPC's Economic Development Team, led by Padmini Roy-Dixon, worked with ODOT to put together the Rickenbacker Area Freight Alliance Workshop.

**Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**

Emily Keeler made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Christina Drummond; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**



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## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,673,006</b>

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.

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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
			<b>Total:</b> <u>\$2,000,000</u>	

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
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$117,006,044</b>	

**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
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$1,251,428</b>	

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

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### 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
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>\$123,495,359</b>

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

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[www.morpc.org](http://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.

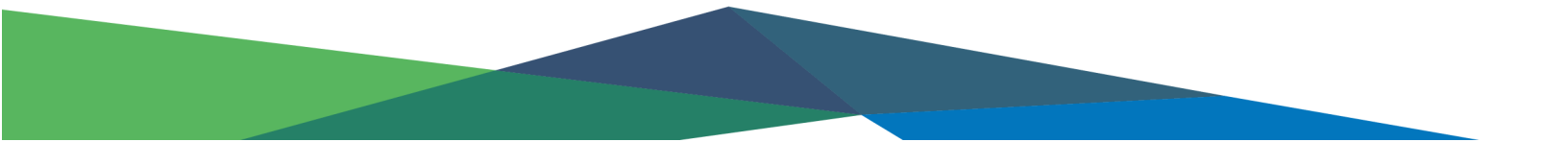
Several projects in the portfolio of MORPC-Attributable Funding projects are anticipated to be ready for construction ahead of the fiscal year in which funding will be available. Accordingly, the resolution directs staff to work to identify solutions to make funding available earlier when projects are 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.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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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.

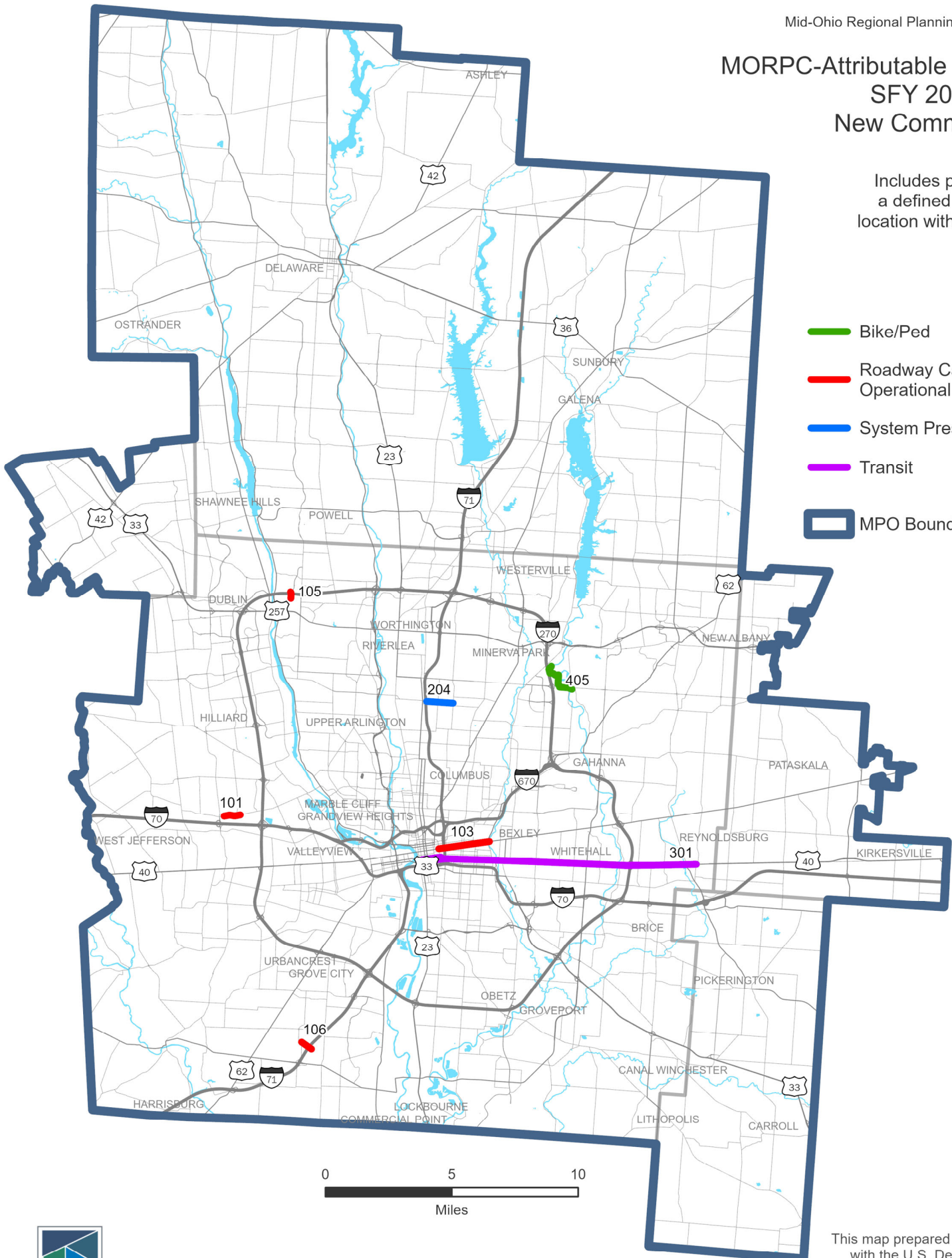


-  Bike/Ped
-  Roadway Capacity & Operational Changes
-  System Preservation
-  Transit
-  MPO Boundary



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.

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**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 Planning Commission Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2025  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Town Hall

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### **Commission Members Present in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong	Cindi Fitzpatrick	Eric Meyer
Chris Amorose Groomes	Greg Fitzpatrick	Brittany Misner
Joe Antram	Pam Hykes O'Grady	Rod Pritchard
Jamie Brucker	Laurie Jadwin	Mike Schadek
Ron Bullard	James Jewell	Alana Shockey
Ben Collins	Carol Kauffman	Matt Starr
Michelle Crandall	Emily Keeler	Joe Steager
Christina Drummond	Ben Kessler	Trenton Weaver
Brad Ebersole	Benjamin King	Andrew Williams
David Efland	Bill LaFayette	
Shane Farnsworth	Haley Lupton	

### **Commission Members Attending Remotely**

Barry Adler	Bill Habig	Eric Phillips
Herb Asher	Jeff Hall	Eric Richter
Jeff Benton	Daryl Hennessy	Nick Shultz
Michael Bivens	Christine Houk	Sloan Spalding
Michelle Blanton	Mark Johns	Brandon Standley
Gary Burkholder	Drenda Keese	Joe Stefanov
Greg Butcher	Joe Long	Andy Volenik
Chasilyn Carter	Glenn Marzluf	Tim Wilson
Tracie Davies	Mark Mauter	RC Wise
Terry Emery	Steve Mazer	Kenneth Wright
Jeremiah Gracia	Tom McCarthy	
Dave Gulden	Bill Narducci	

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending In Person**

Kristen Easterday

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely**

Kim Sharp	Erin Synk	Cindy Wengerter
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### **Associate Members Attending Remotely**

Kristin Sutton

### **MORPC Staff Present in Person**

Parag Agrawal	Jessica Keunzli	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Steve Armstrong	Eileen Leuby	Shari Saunders
Todd Bradley	Kelsey Matson	Maria Schaper
Dave Dixon	Amanda McEldowney	Melinda Vonstein
Preston Frick	William Murdock	Brandi Whetstone
Matika Fields	Alisa Obukhova	Robert Williams
Joe Garrity	Kyle Probert	
Ralonda Hampton	Melissa Rapp	

### **MORPC Staff Attending Remotely**

Emily Brown	Shawn Hufstedler
Kylie Davis	Karina Peggau

### **Guests Present in Person**

Grace Byler, Morrow County	Cornell Robertson, The Mannik & Smith Group
Matt Goodheart, City of Gahanna	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Mara Hunter, City of Gahanna	Corey Wybensinger, City of Gahanna



**Guests Attending Remotely**

Mike Anderson, AECOM  
Andrew Beare, City of Delaware  
Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley  
Jennifer Morgan

Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter  
James Walker  
Brent Welch, FCEO

**Meeting Called to Order – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair**

Chair Chris Amorose Grooms called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Amorose Grooms announced the appointment of the Bylaws Committee:

- Haley Lupton, Village of Plain City, Chair (already appointed)
- Mike Schadek, City of Columbus
- Kris Long, Franklin County
- Ben Collins, Plain Township
- Brittany Misner, Village of Hebron
- Joe Steager, City of Canal Winchester

**Recognition of Guests and New Members – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer**

Eileen Leuby welcomed new representatives Greg Fitzpatrick, Logan County Commissioner and Adam Fowler, Franklin County Engineer. Ms. Leuby welcomed the following guests from the City of Gahanna: Matt Goodheart, Mara Hunter, and Corey Wybensinger.

**Executive Director's Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director**

William Murdock gave the [Executive's Director Report](#). Last week, 200 people attended Data Day 2025, MORPC's first big event of the year. You will hear more about Data Day later in today's meeting. One of MORPC's core functions is to bring the region together around things that support public service. Mr. Murdock is proud of the Team's effort.

Last week, MORPC was informed that we received a \$325,000 bike/pedestrian grant from ODOT. The grant allows us to update the greenways map for the first time in ten years.

COTA's Board adopted the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The TSI is the trails and sidewalks portion of LinkUS. This is the first regional CIP for trails and sidewalks.

For the first half of the week a MORPC delegation was in Washington, DC for the National Association of Regional Councils National Conference as well as to make congressional visits. The delegation heard about the latest adjustments to programs and policies. MORPC's approach is to learn as much as we can and monitor the landscape. We are laser focused on transportation reauthorization. The delegation met with a lot of the Central Ohio congressional delegation carrying the message of the policies that will help Central Ohio communities. They also met with Amtrak to talk about passenger rail.

The 208 Process Review Committee about sewer facility planning areas is proactively planning for growth and resolving disputes and is nearing completion. They may have a process recommendation for this body to consider as soon as March. Mr. Murdock is grateful for the committee that dove into the details and technical aspects.

The 15-county Regional Water Study will be completed in the next couple of months. The study looked at each county's unique aspect around water supply and demand. MORPC will host a preview session in April. Each county will have a unique video module that talks about what the

study means for them and how their employees can use the tools. Mr. Murdock is proud of Brandi Whetstone and Edwina Teye for their work on the study.

About three years ago, MORPC worked with the region to create a Regional Housing Strategy in response to the housing crisis. The strategy identified about 100 different tools in 11 different submarkets to provide support for the region. MORPC has been working on recommendations including a policy recommendation at the end of December that resulted in \$1.5 million from the state for small communities who need zoning and planning technical assistance. Other efforts include policy briefs, rural forums, and founding a peer group at the national level. MORPC is available to partner with communities. The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program was developed 1.5 years ago to provide support to member communities. MORPC has already helped 20 communities through the program. MORPC provides direct services to hundreds of homes in Franklin County every year helping the most vulnerable families in the community. We always need more clients. We are developing new partnerships with communities on home stabilization.

The Regional Housing Coalition is an outgrowth of the regional conversations with communities looking to do more. The coalition is doing a survey and asked for Commission feedback.

The Grant of the Month is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The grant provides funding for hazard mitigation activities.

On February 27 MORPC is hosting a panel discussion on the Future of Transportation: Increasing Access & Bridging the Gap. The panel includes representatives from COMTO, MORPC, Columbus Regional Airport Authority and COTA.

Less than 200 seats are available for MORPC's March 21 State of the Region. The keynote speaker will be announced next week. Results from the economic development and growth survey will be shared at the event.

Mr. Murdock congratulated MORPC's Ralonda Hampton for being named a YWCA Columbus 2025 Woman on the Rise.

#### **Quarterly Membership Update – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer**

Eileen Leuby presented the [Quarterly Membership Report](#) highlighting the following:

- Member visits
- Regional Collaboration Meeting – Central Area
- Rural Forum Series for 2025
- State of the Cities, Counties, and Regional Meetings
- Benefit of the Month – Mid-Ohio Finance Administrators
- Ohio City/County Management Association event with Peter Kageyama, "For the Love of Cities" – February 27
- Local Government Summer Intern Program
- 2024 Attendance Recognition

#### **Regional Policy Roundtable – Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations**

Joe Garrity presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). Copies of the [2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda](#) are available on the back table. Mr. Garrity thanked Mayor Sloan Spalding for his leadership of the Public Policy Agenda Working Group. The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is February 18. James Coyne, State Director from Senator Bernie Moreno's office, will be speaking.

- **Legislative Update – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations**

Joe Garrity and Steve Tugend gave the legislative update highlighting the following:

- National Association of Regional Councils National Conference
- Group of MORPC Leaders in Washington, DC for congressional and Amtrak visits
- Federal funding
- Passenger rail
- State Transportation Budget
- Jim Tressel confirmed as Lt. Governor
- HB 96 – Operating Budget
- Central Ohio Defense Group

**Bylaws Committee – Haley Lupton (Village of Plain City), MORPC Bylaws Committee Chair**

Hayley Lupton reported the MORPC Bylaws were last updated in 2016. The Bylaws Committee was formed to look at needed administrative updates and to focus on new committees proposed for economic development and water. The first meeting is today at 3 p.m. The revised Bylaws will be brought to the Commission for approval.

**Regional Data Advisory Committee – Christina Drummond (City of Powell), MORPC Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair**

Christina Drummond presented the [Regional Data Advisory Committee Update](#). Last Wednesday, MORPC held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Data Day at Columbus State Community College. The theme was how to make impacts through trust in data. Over 200 people attended the event with 18 breakout sessions and regional networking. Ms. Drummond reminded Data Day attendees to complete the after-event survey to help improve the event for next year.

The fourth Leaders Listen series survey focused on Economic Development. MORPC Team Members are analyzing the results to share during the State of the Region. The survey asked top-of-mind questions of area residents regarding economic challenges and opportunities, as well as gauging public sentiment on the region's trajectory with the economy, transportation, sustainability, housing, and cost of living. Ms. Drummond thanked everyone who participated in and shared the survey. The survey received over 2,200 responses.

The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio just released the results of their Central Ohio Housing Survey. In their report titled "Overwhelming" they share specific housing policy interventions where there is extremely high (overwhelming) public support to increase housing options and address affordability. The full report is available [online](#).

The MORPC Data & Mapping Team continues to develop Phase 1 of the MORPC Insights platform. First phase goals are to collect disparate resources in one place, make community-level data more readily accessible where available, and go beyond just sharing the raw data, to providing brief narratives with insights on the recent trends in the region and by county. The Team plans to soft launch the platform near the end of the month, swapping out the existing links to the soon-to-be-retired "Population Resource Hub." Send questions and feedback to Dave Dixon at [ddixon@morpc.org](mailto:ddixon@morpc.org).

The Regional Data Advisory Committee Cybersecurity Working Group reminded Commission Members that all MORPC Member Governments are eligible to take advantage of state pricing on a variety of cybersecurity products and services. Cyber Ohio's Aggregate Purchasing Resource Guide is available online at [cyber.ohio.gov](https://cyber.ohio.gov).

**Sustainability Advisory Committee – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair**

Ben Kessler presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). He introduced the City of Bexley's Stay Cool Mural on their City Hall. For the last ten consecutive years, the earth has experienced the ten warmest years, and greenhouse gas emissions are at an all-time high. International commerce is booming in our region and wants to partner with communities that share their vision for a sustainable community and future. Mayor Kessler encouraged members to help in stopping the progression of climate change. He is committed to providing a peer base to support and help members.

Mayor Kessler recognized the members of the 2025 Sustainability Advisory Committee and welcomed new members Stephen Harris from the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council, Niki Lemin from the Ohio EPA, and Erin Hill from the City of Reynoldsburg. He thanked members for their service. Mayor Kessler and Mayor Laurie Jadwin will continue as Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee is reviewing and updating goals and objectives. They proposed a new goal and are reviewing and updating more than 100 strategies. The revised schedule accounts for the time needed to shape the newly added goal. The draft agenda will be available in April and presented for adoption in June.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is going on tour this year. The March 19 meeting is at Grandview Heights Park and Rec building, hosted by Grandview Heights Council President Emily Keeler. The June 18 meeting, hosted by Glenn Marzluf, will tour Del-Co Water Company's floating solar installation.

- **Gahanna Sustainable2050 Certification – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC Director of Sustainability**

Brandi Whetstone presented the [City of Gahanna Sustainable2050 Recertification](#) and reported that the City of Gahanna completed the requirements to recertify as a Sustainable2050 member under the current Regional Sustainability Agenda. Ms. Whetstone recognized and thanked the team who worked with MORPC through the process including Mara Hunter, Corey Wybensinger, and Mayor Jadwin.

Ms. Whetstone reminded members of the requirements to earn certification levels. The City of Gahanna previously earned the silver certification under the old Regional Sustainability Agenda which included 52 strategies to choose from. The current framework includes 107 strategies and nearly double the number required to meet certification levels. The Equity Champion designation is awarded when the member achieves ten or more points in that category.

Ms. Whetstone highlighted an example from each of the four regional goals. The City of Gahanna earned 89 points making them eligible for Sustainable2050 Gold Certification plus Equity Champion.

Ms. Whetstone recognized all Sustainable2050 participants. Reach out to Ms. Whetstone if your community is interested in becoming a member of Sustainable2050.

- **Updated Central Ohio Greenways Trail – Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning and Melinda Vonstein, MORPC Greenways Planning Studio Lead**

Jessica Kuenzli and Melinda Vonstein presented the [Updated Central Ohio Greenways Trail Vision](#). Central Ohio Greenways is celebrating ten years and their vision to add over 500 miles of trails in Central Ohio extending trails, filling gaps, and connecting quadrants. In the next five years the region will build over 50 miles of regional trails in Franklin County alone. Over the last year Central Ohio Greenways started leveraging momentum and moving it into rural communities. They hosted eight Greenways Planning Studio Workshops resulting in an expanded vision to 1,000 miles of existing proposed or committed trails. The expanded vision includes connecting state parks, focusing on rural connections, and connecting all our communities together. Gateways of Regional Significance will offer trail users basic amenities needed for a dignified, safe, and comfortable experience (restrooms, emergency services, benches, etc.).

**Transportation Policy Committee – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair**  
Chair Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:38 p.m. The session adjourned at 2:51 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

**Commission Consent Agenda**

Joe Antram made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by Laurie Jadwin; motion passed.

**Other Business**

Next month, Commissioner Joe Antram will give a report regarding the progress made in Logan County after the tornado disaster last spring.

The State of the Region will sell out, purchase your tickets soon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**