



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

April 2, 2025
9:00 a.m.

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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions – Fritz Crosier, Chair**
- 9:02 a.m. Approval of March 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC
Dave Dixon, MORPC**
- 9:15 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - Transportation Review Advisory Council Project List Update – Shelby Oldroyd, MORPC
- 9:30 a.m. Informational Items**
- TAC Subcommittee Updates
 - Intelligent Transportation Systems – Jon Heider, MORPC
 - Active Transportation Committee – Co-Chair Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
 - TAC Member Update - Worthington – John Moorehead, Director/City Engineer

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

9:55 a.m. Other Business

10:00 a.m. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY CHUCK RATLIFF AT 614-233-4115 OR EMAIL cratliff@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

**The next TAC meeting is
April 30, 2025, at 9 a.m.**



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **March 5, 2025**
Time: **9:00 a.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Biesterveld, Andrew	McKee, Rozland (online)	Risko, Michele
Boucher, Christine	Moorehead, John	Sanders, Scott
Cox, Barbara	Moran, Alan	Tourville, Scott
Crosier, Fritz	Moss, Kimberly (online)	Upp, Jeremiah
Hamons, Shannon	Nittle, Tim	Volenik, Andy (online)
Jenkins, Tiffany (online)	Owen, Jonathan	Wilfong, Gary
Komlanc, Tom	Peoples, Matt	

Guests

Bakare, Tajudeen (online)	Elsea, Amy	Petee, Eric
Bush, Ryan (online)	Hibbard, Tom	Prichard, Aaron
Dar, Naureen (online)	Hill, Anthony (online)	Wanamaker, Gayle
Deer, Shane	Mills, Jerry (online)	Wawszkiewicz, Tina (online)

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag	Olmsted, Patty	Schaper, Maria
Dixon, Dave	Petrov, Jordan (online)	Turner, Mary (online)
Lewis, Elliott	Ratliff, Chuck	
Oldroyd, Shelby	Roberts, Griffin	

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Crosier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve the February 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Peoples moved; Mr. Biesterveld seconded; and the motion passed.

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

- Ms. Schaper and Mr. Dixon informed the committee of the following:
 - MORPC is collaborating with employers and employees to offer transportation solutions as more individuals return to full-time in-person work. The Gohio team presented sustainable workforce mobility options to the Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network in February. A tour of the Rickenbacker area was conducted in partnership with the Columbus Region Logistics Council, the Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network,

COTA, and ODOT. Challenges faced by employers in transporting employees were discussed.

- The construction site of the Rickenbacker Area Mobility Center, slated to open in January 2026, was toured. The center will partner with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and offer childcare services. Job training programs are also being considered.
- MORPC is supporting the implementation of LinkUs, particularly through the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) program. The focus is on projects with funding commitments in 2026.
- MOPRC has developed a dashboard that highlights completed services and provides access to deliverables for the Technical Assistance Program.
- Monday Mondays sessions for March 2025 were provided.
- The 2025 Data Day event had record attendance and sponsorships and received a rating of 4.3 out of 5 stars. Next year's Data Day will be scheduled so it does not conflict with the TAC meeting.
- The Leaders Listen survey has closed, with 2,200 people participating. The survey included questions about transportation, housing, and environmental sustainability in addition to economic challenges. The results will be shared at the MORPC State of the Region event on March 21, 2025.
- MORPC is soft launching a new web tool called the MORPC Insights platform. The goal is to consolidate content in one tool, facilitate access to community-level information, and provide narrative explanations of data. Feedback is requested on usability and content.
- MORPC was awarded \$325,000 to update the regional bikeways map. The updated map will include an Ohio Cycling Travelling guide with a bike level of stress map, a 15-county trail map, and a Trail Town story map template.

IV. Funding Programs

- Attributable Funds Project Status Update
 - Mr. Graham provided an update on MORPC attributable funding commitments for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, noting that there were no major changes since the last update. The highlights included:
 - Columbus Cassidy Ave. Project (PID 105732) has encumbered funds.
 - Several outstanding commitments remain in various stages, with minor uncertainty regarding encumbrance dates, particularly for right-of-way commitments. However, these commitments are small and do not raise significant concerns at this time.
 - COTA's High Capacity Transit project along the West Broad Corridor (\$7.52 million) has submitted a flex-fund transfer request to move funds from FHWA to FTA, which upon completion will show as encumbered within SFY 2025.
- T-2-25 Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Mr. Lewis presented six proposed changes to the TIP, totaling approximately \$14.7 million, related to transit projects.
 - The changes primarily involve the addition of Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership (OWMP) Program awards for preventive maintenance, bus

shelters, restoration of late-night service on COTA, and improvements at the Rickenbacker Mobility Center under construction.

- Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Peoples moved; Mr. Upp seconded; and the motion passed.
- T-3-25 Adopting MORPC Attributable Funding Commitments
 - Mr. Graham presented proposed resolution T-3-25, explaining that MORPC attributable funding is the capital program for providing federal funds to projects within the MPO.
 - MORPC received commitment updates in July for all projects with an outstanding commitment of MORPC-attributable funding. Across 31 outstanding commitments, an additional \$23 million was requested.
 - MORPC received new requests for funding in September. \$52 million remained available to be allocated to new commitments. Twenty final applications were received, requesting \$167 million.
 - The Attributable Funds Committee recommended approval of the requested increases, as well as new funding commitments for seven projects.
 - The new funding commitments include roadway capacity/operational changes (Trabue Rd. at Walcott Rd., E Broad Capital Trail, Dublin's Emerald Connector, Grove City's Southwest Regional Medical and Innovation Gateway overpass), Cook Rd. Phase two, the E Main St. BRT, and another section of the Big Walnut Trail.
 - A public comment period was held, with 104 of 118 comments supporting the funding recommendations, 9 opposed, and 8 neither supporting nor opposing.
 - Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Wilfong moved; Mr. Nittle seconded; and the motion passed.

V. Resolutions

- T-4-25 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Expansion
 - Ms. Schaper presented proposed resolution T-4-25, explaining that MPO boundary regulations are based on the census urbanized area and should include areas likely to become urban within the 20-year forecast of the metropolitan transportation plan. The urban area boundary is reviewed every 10 years following the census.
 - The MPO boundary is expanding to include Plain City and the City of Johnstown. The expansion will be effective July 1, 2025. The boundary will include the municipal boundaries of Plain City and Johnstown, expanding as those municipal boundaries grow.
 - A committee member asked for clarification about the irregular shape of the proposed MPO boundary around Johnstown, noting it appeared not to include all of the highlighted area or all of Johnstown's corporate limits. Ms. Schaper replied that the MPO boundary would fully incorporate Plain City, including future annexations, but Monroe Township, which surrounds Johnstown, did not currently wish to join MORPC's MPO and would remain under LCATS jurisdiction.
 - Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Cox moved; Mr. Upp seconded; and the motion passed.

VI. Informational Items

- State Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program
 - Ms. Schaper provided information on the State Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program (PWP), explaining that the PWP is one of the required documents that a Metropolitan Planning Organization produces. It describes the transportation planning activities and studies being conducted with planning dollars from ODOT and funding from other sources. The program is developed into work elements, including the type or category of work, methods and products, a schedule, and a budget. It includes formula-funded activities, special studies, and rideshare and air quality programs.

VII. Other Business

- Ms. Schaper mentioned that typically in April and October MORPC highlights a community to present local transportation initiatives. These months have lighter agendas since the Community Advisory Committee does not meet. Ms. Schaper invited interested members to volunteer to showcase their community projects, noting she might directly reach out to members if there are no volunteers.
- Chair Crosier shared that MORPC is seeking feedback on improving the Attributable Funds process and invited TAC members to suggest ideas or improvements based on their recent experiences with the process. Chair Crosier emphasized his willingness to meet individually with TAC members to ensure comprehensive feedback from the committee.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Maria Schaper, Secretary
Transportation Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

March 2025

MOBILITY & DEVELOPMENT

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

Transportation

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

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Ensured the projects listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and other MORPC programs aligned with MTP goals and objectives.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- MORPC has been analyzing the Gohio Mobility website to see where enhancements and improvements can be made. This is an ongoing effort with our vendor RideAmigos.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- The first vehicle order from the FY23 5310 award cycle was delivered to the City of Obetz. The city will use the new transit vehicle to improve mobility for their seniors and residents with disabilities, connecting them with appointments, shopping, and other tasks. Additional awards from FY23 and FY24 are being processed now.

Gohio Commute

- Actively provided transportation options for federal workers returning to the workplace. Approximately twelve new vans will be on the road between April and May. Additional van formations are in progress, with more expected to launch by June.
- Launched a carpool program with J.P. Morgan Chase at several locations to support transportation needs as their 19,000 employees return to the workplace
- Introduced Commute Perks to Central Ohio, allowing Ohioans to earn local and national discounts by logging their sustainable commutes on Gohio Commute.
- Collaborated with Hunter Marketing to run an advertising campaign from May to June, targeting the initial 50,000 workers returning to Franklin County to promote commute options other than driving alone.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- Continued to support COTA and local sponsors to formalize the first funding agreements for 2026 transit-supportive infrastructure (TSI) commitments.

Passenger Rail

- The Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee had their first quarterly meeting of 2025 on March 11, 2025. Updates were provided by MORPC, the Midwest Connect planning team, Amtrak, and Railtowns.org, a non-profit organization assisting municipalities with rail-related safety and development.
- Deliverables for Step 1 of the Corridor ID Program are under review by the Federal Railroad Administration. The study is expected to advance to Step 2, creating the service development plan, this summer and will last into 2028.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- The draft SFY 2026 – 2029 TIP was released for public comment on March 11, 2025. Comments are being accepted through April 11, 2025.
- A public open house for the SFY 26-29 TIP will be held on April 2, 2025, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at MORPC.
- CORPO staff have been preparing data and supporting materials needed to complete the Functional Classification Review process, then will coordinate with CORPO counties and jurisdictions on draft revisions to functional classification. The full review will need to be completed by August 2025.
- CORPO subcommittee meetings were hosted in each of the seven CORPO counties between March 17 and 31, 2025. The next CORPO Committee meeting will be held May 5, 2025, at 2 p.m. at MORPC.

Active Transportation Planning:

- Team members have been working closely with ODOT staff and partners to plan the first annual Ohio Active Transportation Conference. The conference is scheduled for April 29-30, 2025 in Columbus and registration is now open: www.transportation.ohio.gov/about-us/events/at-conference/at-conference.
- The Q2 MORPC Active Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be hybrid and hosted in the MORPC Board Room and via Microsoft Teams. The agenda will include an update from the City of Columbus on the Regional Shared Mobility Initiative, as well as discussion with MORPC about the Regional Bikeways Layer, a Regional ATP update, and Regional Bike Map update.
- Complete Streets project reviews were completed for the following MORPC-funded projects:
 - PID 115797 FRA 161 (Ambleside/Maple Canyon) – Stage 2
 - PID 115646 FRA SR 16 9.27 (E Broad St Phase 2) – Stage 3
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
 - City of Columbus Accelerated Mobility Playbook Focus Group on March 4, 2025.
 - OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting on March 10, 2025.
 - Regional Shared Mobility coordination meeting on March 13, 2025.
 - ODOT Active Transportation Conference Planning Committee meeting on March 24, 2025.
- Coordinated with AARP Ohio to present as part of a series on Active Transportation.

- The final presentation was held on March 20, 2025, and covered the benefits of active transportation, current active transportation planning activities in Central Ohio, and information on how to conduct walk audits.
- MORPC lead AARP guests and local partners on a walk audit of E Main Street near the Bexley Library on March 28, 2025.
- Collaboration continued with Delaware Public Health District to lead a bi-annual class lecture on Public Health and the Built Environment for public health students at Ohio Wesleyan University on March 24, 2025. This included an overview of how to conduct walk audits.
 - Walk audits were conducted with the students around the City of Delaware on March 26 and March 28, 2025. City of Delaware staff also participated.

Transportation Safety:

- Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings and safety-related events:
 - Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Steering Committee meeting on March 3, 2025.
 - Ohio SHSP Data emphasis area working group meeting on March 3, 2025.
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on March 6, 2025.
 - Ohio Traffic Safety Council Fatal Crash Review working group meeting on March 18, 2025.
 - Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation meeting on March 20, 2025.
- MORPC has been collaborating with local and state partners to develop a formal procedure for and conduct workshops and panel sessions on implementation of the Safe System Approach in fatal crash reviews. These sessions will be featured at the following national and state conferences:
 - [2025 Safe Mobility Conference](#) in Madison, Wisconsin (April 7-9, 2025)
 - [2025 Ohio Traffic Safety Summit](#) in Columbus, Ohio (May 19-20, 2025)

Technical Assistance Program:

- Work continues in 2025 technical assistance services. Team members meet every other week with local project managers to discuss progress and review materials.
- A Trail Wayfinding stakeholder workshop was hosted on March 18, 2025, in collaboration with the City of Hilliard. Stakeholders reviewed and discussed wayfinding priorities for Central Ohio Greenways trails in the Hilliard community.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The draft SFY 2026 – 2029 TIP was released for public comment on March 11, 2025. Comments are being accepted through April 11, 2025.
- A public open house for the SFY 26-29 TIP will be held on April 2, 2025 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at MORPC.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- New and updated MORPC-Attributable Funding commitments were adopted, transmitted to ODOT, and included in the draft SFY 26-29 TIP.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- The Public Works Integrating Committee for District 3 (Franklin County) met to begin discussing potential modifications to the district methodology in March 2025.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- In February 2025, TRAC approved more than \$34 million in additional funding for four projects in the MORPC planning area. TRAC held a working session to deliberate the first draft of projects to be included in the Major New Construction Program. The final draft program is scheduled to be approved for public comment at TRAC's meeting on March 26, 2025. Final program approval is expected at TRAC's April 23, 2025 meeting.

Federal Competitive Programs

- The Economic Development office assists partners leverage Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding opportunities. This team recently discussed EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance program with the Franklin County Engineer's Office for their Alum Creek project.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
 - March 3, 2025: Gohio Commute Program: Patty Olmsted, Transportation Demand Management Program Manager, MORPC
 - March 10, 2025: Bricker & Graydon: Alternative Financing for Public Entities: Caleb Bell and Colin Kalvas
 - March 17, 2025: Advancing Transit, Andy Volenik, Executive Director, Delaware County Transit

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- The findings from MORPC's *Leaders Listen* survey on Economic Development were announced at the State of the Region event on March 21, 2025. A more detailed report will be available online. Over 2,200 respondents from the Central Ohio region participated in the survey.
- The by-laws for the recently formed Economic Development District governing board and the committee that advises it, the CEDS Committee, will be presented to MORPC's By-laws Committee this month.

Drive Investment Portal:

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

Freight Planning:

- MORPC, in partnership with Columbus Region Logistics Council (CRLC) and the Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN), organized a tour of the Rickenbacker Area on March 3, 2025. Along with staff from COTA and ODOT, the visit included meetings at two distribution centers, a tour of the upcoming COTA Mobility Center and a drive-by of the Anduril site. The meetings reaffirmed the strategic importance of the Rickenbacker Area as a key transit, global trade and infrastructure asset that employs almost 25,000 people.
- MORPC's Economic Development office planned to host businesses from the Rickenbacker Area for a focus group in April to discuss the challenges they face, and how organizations like MORPC, COTA, ODOT and others can support them better.

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- With funding from ODOT, over the next year, COG will be developing a Central Ohio Cycling Guide.
- The COG Board met on March 19, 2025, to welcome new COG Board Members and set goals for the next year. The Board also reviewed a draft logo for the Trail Town Program.
- In 2025, COG began 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.
- An updated Outdoor Trails Pass will be launched in partnership with Experience Columbus on Earth Day. New itineraries from local communities will be included.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee finalized the project. It will be available on the COG website soon. COG Staff will begin sharing the results widely over the next two months.
- MORPC has offered support to communities interested in implementing the recently released COG Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. The City of Hilliard is the first community to be awarded this support.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) is seeking sponsorship for the 2025 COG Forums.
- COG encouraged communities to host Celebrate Trails Day events within their communities on April 26, 2025. Rails to Trails Conservancy offers free drinks and marketing materials. MORPC is hosting a Celebrate Trails Day event in partnership with Green Columbus at Scioto Audubon Metro Park on April 27, 2025.
- GPS is developing project priorities for four workshops in 2025.
- GPS is developing a strategic plan to leverage existing MORPC and partner resources.

Central Ohio Blueways:

- The Central Ohio Blueways Working Groups continue to prioritize their goals for 2025.
- The Environmental Stewardship Working Group is still assembling guidance for Onion Bag Project Installations. The Group is currently reviewing a draft implementation guide for the installation of Onion Bag Project installations. The group meets monthly. The next meeting will be on March 31, 2025.
- Some members of the User Experience Working Group have had to be less involved due to increased workloads outside of the Working Group. As a result, the User Experience and Water Trail Designation working groups will be combined due to their closely related goals. Moving forward, the group will be referred to as the “River Ready Working Group”.
- The River Ready Working Group met on March 20, 2025, to discuss their contributions to an editable field map, as well as their plan for designating Big Walnut Creek as an Ohio Water Trail. The goal of the map is to provide details on the amenities at access points, and any useful information on the waterways’ navigability and seasonality.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

Outreach

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. The MORPC team is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy.

Implementation Assistance

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

Community Based Planning Assistance:

- The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continued 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.

Consultant Services Program

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

Planner Pool Program

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

STEPZ Workshop

- Organizing the second installation of the STEPZ Workshops: STEPZ: Planning Staff. This workshop will be held on May 20, 2025. If you have any questions about the event and how it can assist your

community's planning commissions and boards of zoning appeals, contact Tunazzina Alam at talam@morpc.org.

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC):

- The SAC met at the City of Grandview Heights Parks Building on March 19, 2025. Members heard a presentation from Member Emily Keeler, City of Grandview Heights Council President, regarding Sustainability in Grandview Heights. Members also heard a presentation and joined open discussion with MORPC's Joe Garrity regarding Policy & Federal Funding. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org). SAC will meet next on June 18, 2025, at the Del-Co Water Company.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

- The sub-committee met in February to provide input on proposed strategies for Goals 2 and 3. The MORPC team also proposed a mission and vision statement to capture the overarching themes across the agenda. Sub-committee members will continue their work reviewing strategies in preparation for their next meeting on March 25, 2025. A draft will be available for member and stakeholder review in late April 2025. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustainable2050:

- MORPC hosted the Q1 2025 Sustainable2050 meeting on March 5, 2025, featuring a presentation from MurphyEpson on how to better engage residents around sustainability initiatives.
- Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members, and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org. A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook has been submitted and reviewed by the MORPC team, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings.

Water Resources Program:

Regional Water Advisory Council (formerly Sustaining Scioto Board)

- The first Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) meeting will be held on April 30, 2025. MORPC staff continues to collate a stakeholder list that includes representation from the 15-county region. The RWAC provides leadership in planning, management, stewardship, and resiliency of waters in the region while ensuring clean and abundant water is readily available for everyone in Central Ohio in the face of a changing climate, growth, and development.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

- The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team will meet on April 3, 2025, to discuss the team's scope of work and priorities for the year and in alignment with the Regional Water Advisory Council vision and goals.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- District 3 – Franklin County
 - The District 3 Natural Resource Assistance Council met on March 20, 2025, and reviewed and approved the District's methodology for FY 2026. District 3 has approximately \$4.5 million in COCP funds for FY 2026. Preliminary screeners are encouraged and are due on June 2, 2025.

- For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.
- District 17 – Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties
 - The District has approximately \$2.5 million available in the FY 2026 cycle. Final applications are due on September 19, 2025.
 - For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow and Pickaway counties, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org.

Regional Water Study

- The study was completed at the end of February 2025 with final reviews currently underway by the agencies. The deliverables will be uploaded to the websites. The deliverables include an interactive dashboard, tutorials on how to use the dashboard, 15-county summary findings, individual county report-out videos, PowerPoints, PDFs, gap analysis, and proposed projects to fill potential gaps. MORPC is working in partnership with Ohio EPA to host a workshop for local governments in May 2025. More information to come.
- If you would like to be added to the listserv to receive the final deliverables, please email Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org. Webinar recordings and slide deck information from prior meetings can be accessed here. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section.

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- At their final meeting on March 13, 2025, the 208 Process Review Committee made a recommendation to the MORPC Board that the agency pursue the State's 208 Areawide Planning Agency designation. This recommendation is contingent upon the following:
 - MORPC to secure sufficient funding for staff capacity to support an areawide planning agency;
 - The Areawide Planning Agency is to be governed by policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the 208 Process Review Committee; and
 - The Areawide Agency's governing body will include the 208 Process Review Committee's recommended representation.
 - The recommendation will be shared with the Executive Committee and Board at their April meetings for final approval.

Energy & Air Quality:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The next Energy and Air Quality Working Group meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025. If you or your staff are interested in attending or being a featured speaker, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC applied for the [Charging Smart Regional Engagement Partner Grant](#) run by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. If awarded, this grant would allow MORPC to provide free technical assistance to help local governments become charging smart-designated communities, reducing soft EV infrastructure costs and streamlining deployment. We anticipate hearing notice of awards in mid-April 2025. If MORPC is an award winner, the cohort will likely start in May 2025.

Energy Planning

- MORPC is developing a four-part forum series of informational panel discussions and workshops: "Securing Our Energy Future: Navigating Today's Energy Landscape to Better Plan, Shape, and Lead a Resilient Tomorrow" featuring energy, regulatory, and economic development experts in Central

Ohio. The forum is designed for local government and community leaders to better understand and plan for a more secure, resilient, and affordable energy future. The tentative timeline and topics are as follows:

- Session One (May 15, 2025): Landscape of Energy Planning – Exploring the big-picture challenges and opportunities in Central Ohio, including insights from the Ohio Business Roundtable’s Energy Competitiveness Study and current energy trends.
 - Session Two (June 5, 2025): Permitting, Zoning, and Economic Development – A hands-on, in-person workshop focused on how communities can set the table for energy investment.
 - Session Three (July 2025, TBD): Funding and Resource Opportunities – Understanding tax incentives, funding opportunities, and available resources to help communities build a strong energy strategy.
 - Session Four (August 2025, TBD): Emerging Energy Technologies and Future-Proofing the Region – Exploring what is on the energy horizon, including hydrogen, gas-to-energy biodigesters, and fuel cells.
- For more information or ideas, please contact Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

- The core project team, led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others, continues to flesh out the next deliverables of the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the ten-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Currently, Power a Clean Future Ohio is conducting the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, the GHG emissions projections from the regional GHG inventory that MORPC completed, and the GHG measure quantification. Sustainable Columbus is leading the GHG measure selection, which will be the strategies that will reduce pollution and serve as a roadmap for the Columbus MSA. If you would like more information, please visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager, Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality Alerts

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

US EPA funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project (CLEAN)

- The MORPC & Franklin County Public Health team have deployed 36 sensors into Franklin County. With these in place, data collection for the EPA-funded project will begin and continue through Summer 2026. This data will be utilized by the project consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, to populate an online dashboard that is currently in the testing phase. The project team’s focus will shift to education and outreach, with events being planned in April 2025 for Earth Month, Air Quality Awareness Week, and an air quality webinar on April 29, 2025.

Outreach

- The Air Quality team met with stakeholders during sensor outreach, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the City of Bexley, and students from Otterbein University.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

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

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- RDAC met in January 2025, at MORPC. RDAC continues to focus on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cybersecurity, and Regional Data Coaching projects and initiatives. Notably, we completed the Leaders Listen: Economic Development – Actionable Insights report, Economic Development Business First supplemental, the soft launch of the MORPC Insights platform, and begun circulating the Workforce & Job Quality Working Group's draft Job Quality Fact Sheets for stakeholder feedback. Survey results can be found on the Leaders Listen webpage on MORPC's website. The report offers more in-depth analysis beyond what was shared during MORPC's State of the Region event on March 21, 2025. RDAC will meet again on April 1, 2025.

Working Groups & User Groups

- Cybersecurity Working Group
 - The Working Group met on March 18, 2025. The group supported one session on cybersecurity basics at Data Day 2025, which was well received and attended. Cyber Ohio members released and shared out information on Aggregate Pricing Guide for cybersecurity services to MORPC's board in February. The group is currently developing a plan to roll out OC3's cybersecurity "First Aid Kit" and monthly "Cyber Tip of the Month" content intended to provide education and opportunities for further engagement, especially from resource constrained local governments.
 - Interested parties who have not already done so should complete a Cybersecurity Working Group Interest Form at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/fc8qz5y6zh>.
- Data Day Working Group
 - Work began for Data Day 2026. The group continues to engage with stakeholders regarding improvements and successes. One major point of consideration is how to facilitate increasing interactive sessions and participant engagement. The group is also looking for additional members. If you have any suggestions for group members, themes, keynote speakers, or improvements for Data Day 2026, please contact Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.
- DEI & Data Working Group
 - The group met on March 19, 2025. Three equity-centered sessions were facilitated or presented by group members at Data Day. Overall session attendance and feedback were positive. The group discussed the pros and cons of generating original content, and is considering different project types for next steps, with one contender being to leverage data to identify opportunities to improve underserved communities' access to greenspace and trails. The group is also recommending to RDAC a name change to the "Data for Access and Opportunity Working Group".
- Regional Data Coaches Working Group
 - The group launched two Office 365 listservs, "Regional Data Coaches" and "Regional GIS Coaches" at Data Day, with about 40 individuals signing up. The listservs were promoted at RIDG and COGUG meetings using QR codes, with ongoing efforts to create engaging content. Additionally, the Group hosted its first 2025 outreach pop-up event on March 20, 2025, at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Parsons Branch and continues to develop plans for future outreach activities.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group
 - The group will meet in early April 2025 to learn from the two Group members who attended the Results for America Job Quality Fellowship Convening in February 2025. The convening

provided an opportunity to learn from other groups doing similar work around the country and to collect feedback on our work, namely the draft set of fact sheets focused on five job quality standards. The fact sheets are meant to be a tool for local workforce development boards, economic development agencies, local governments, and others to use as a general reference, or to be adopted or adapted in support of their efforts to promote job quality. The group is also planning to revisit our project plan to refine the scope and timeline given what we have learned in the past year.

- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)

- The group met at the MORPC office on February 26, 2025. The meeting was very well attended with good presentations and discussions. Notes from the meeting can be found here: [02-26-25-COGUG-Notes-FINAL.pdf](#)

- Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)

- members met on February 12, 2025, and heard a presentation from students from The Ohio State University in the Master of Translational Data Analytics program. They discussed their plan for analyzing parcel data from Delaware County's auditor for property tax productivity; "value per acre." Their discussion included how they addressed challenges that arose during data exploration and analysis. Their work is informed by prior art conducted by the firm Urban3 that has shown built environment developed prior to the proliferation of the automobile tends to produce much more tax revenue per acre than auto-oriented development and costs less for provision of municipal services. Consequently, pedestrian and transit oriented development patterns tend to be more fiscally sustainable for communities. Additionally, newer, and wealthier neighborhoods tend to be subsidized by older, poorer, and sometimes "blighted" neighborhoods.
- RIDG will meet again on May 14, 2025. The proposed agenda will include a discussion led by RDAC chair Christina Drummond on "While APIs, Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) and standardized metadata facilitate impact data use at scale, substantial time and human resources are required across legal, privacy, and data teams to authorize, track, normalize, compile, and link sensitive metrics received from an ever-increasing number of platforms and services."
- In this talk, Chair Drummond will highlight outputs and lessons learned from \$1.3 million of Mellon and National Science Foundation R&D investment that has advanced a neutral, global data intermediary infrastructure to facilitate machine actionable impact data sharing between parties, supported by compliance and trust controls. Foundational research and results from a national infrastructure workshop will be summarized, prior to an introduction of the OA Book Usage Data Trust's efforts to develop and pilot a minimum viable "International Data Space" in line with emerging European requirements for certifiable data-intermediary infrastructure. Christina Drummond will introduce the emerging Dataspace Protocol and provide history around its Reference Architecture Model, prior to noting how both are being adapted for use by scholarly communications stakeholders seeking to exchange more granular, sensitive metrics in a timelier fashion to support higher quality analytics.

Data Management:

- The MORPC Insights platform has been released to a limited set of stakeholders to collect feedback prior to the full launch, which is expected to occur in late April 2025. 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 is supported by data, visualizations, and expert commentary. Insights will eventually feature content from trusted partners in addition to MORPC-produced content.
- The team pursued several continuous improvement efforts:
 - Devised a method for backing up the configuration of ArcGIS Online-based web applications.

- Developed automated pipeline for fetching, standardizing, and summarizing Ohio renewable energy data (Distributed Energy Resources).
- Developed automated pipeline for fetching, standardizing, and summarizing alternative fuel station data.
- Developed script to summarize vehicle crash data by year, by crash type, and by mode of transportation, with an emphasis on fatalities, severe injuries, and bike/ped crashes.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

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

Data & Research Activities

- In March 2025, the team kicked off an effort to improve methods for population estimates for sub-county jurisdictions. These estimates are used for computation of MORPC Member dues, among other things. It is hoped that an alternative process will require less effort on the part of MORPC and Member Community staff without sacrificing accuracy. We are seeking feedback from MORPC Member Communities about possible alternatives. If you would like to participate, please contact dataandmaps@morpc.org.
- Final formatting and review are wrapped up for the latest Leaders Listen survey report, which was focused on economic development. Highlights were presented at the State of the Region event on March 21, 2025, and the release of the report coincided with the event. This is the first of a series of annual surveys, each of which will cover the same core content but rotate focus among other topics as well, including transportation, housing, sustainability, and economic development.
- Team members continue to manage the organization’s air quality sensors in support of the US EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant. The team is working with a third-party consultant to develop improved scripts for retrieving, standardizing, and validating PurpleAir data. The team continues to assist with other aspects of the project, such as sensor siting.
- Collaborated with a group of graduate students in The Ohio State University Master of Translational Data Analytics program to conduct a property tax productivity analysis (aka “value per acre”) analysis for parcels in Delaware County. Past studies in other locations have revealed that traditional walkable neighborhoods characteristic of those built prior to World War II produce significantly more tax value per acre than automobile-oriented development characteristic of post-WWII development patterns. The students recently completed the first semester of the two-semester course, in which they completed analysis planning and exploratory data analysis. The students are carrying out the analysis under supervision from MORPC. A key project goal is that the analysis will be reproducible and easily adaptable to other counties. The processes for working with county parcel data may also facilitate other critical MORPC work including sub-county population estimates.
- The team is working with Columbus Metropolitan Libraries to define and analyze the service area for the forthcoming West Case branch location.

Mapping Activities

- Honda-Marysville Drive times layer
- Finance year end square mileage report
- RideShare data for COTA and West Jefferson
- Economic Development District EDD Map

- Yearly Parcel Update
- Downtown Districts web map app
- Licking Co Land Use updates
- Lockbourne Zoning map edits/adjustments
- TIP/CORPO TIP project clean-up and commenter
- Process Natural Resources Assessment data from FCSW
- Update layers: MPO, Cities, Bikeways

Modeling Activities

- Columbus Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- TIP Community Impact Analysis
- Bixby/US-33 Interchange Modeling
- Processing traffic counts
- MORPC will require 24-hour traffic count data for all traffic growth rate studies and area studies starting April 11, 2025. Staff presented this data requirement at the February 2025 TAC meeting and notified local members and the consultant team via email.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

News Releases:

- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards \\$2 Million to MORPC for Healthy Homes Program – MORPC.org](#) (2/28/2025)
- [MORPC Releases Annual Report on Central Ohio Air Quality – MORPC.org](#) (3/5/2025)
- [MORPC and CORPO to Host Transportation Improvement Program Open House on Wednesday, April 2 – MORPC.org](#) (3/12/2025)
- [MORPC Proposes More Than \\$52 Million in New Transportation Projects – MORPC.org](#) (3/14/2025)
- [At MORPC's 2025 State of the Region, Leaders Call for Bold Action to Shape Central Ohio's Growth – MORPC.org](#) (3/21/2025)

MORPC in the News:

- [COTA expanding its operating hours past midnight in Downtown](#) (2/19/2025)
- [What last year's trends indicate about the 2025 central Ohio housing market | NBC4 WCMH-TV](#) (2/20/2025)
- [What last year's trends indicate about the 2025 central Ohio housing market | NBC4 WCMH-TV](#) (2/21/2025)
- [YWCA Columbus Announces 2025 Women on the Rise](#) (2/21/2025)
- [Voter registration and passenger rail provisions added to Ohio transportation budget | The Statehouse News Bureau](#) (2/23/2025)
- ["The Future of Transportation: Increasing Access and Bridging the Gap," hosted by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission \[MORPC\] | ColumbusFreePress.com](#) (2/25/2025)
- [MORPC releases annual report on central Ohio air quality | | athensmessenger.com](#) (3/6/2025)
- [MORPC Releases Annual Report on Central Ohio Air Quality - Scioto Post](#) (3/6/2025)
- [Report shows central Ohio's air quality declined in 2024](#) (3/6/2025)
- [MORPC Releases Annual Report on Central Ohio Air Quality - Union County Daily Digital](#) (3/10/2025)
- [Clearer Skies, Cleaner Breaths: MORPC's Annual Air Quality Insights – 1808Delaware](#) (3/10/2025)
- [Air quality affects seasonal allergies: How to cope with both | NBC4 WCMH-TV](#) (3/10/2025)
- [MORPC seeks public input on transportation programs - Columbus Messenger](#) (3/12/2025)
- [Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging shifting to regional focus beginning in 2026](#) (3/13/2025)
- [More Support, More Access: COAAA's Big Move to Help Seniors](#) (3/13/2025)
- [MORPC releases annual report on central Ohio air quality | The Highland County Press](#) (3/13/2025)
- [Columbus named the second-fastest growing U.S. city in 2024](#) (3/14/2025)
- [Grove City Among Beneficiaries of MORPC's \\$52 Million Investment in Central Ohio's Transportation Infrastructure - Scioto Post](#) (3/14/2025)

- [MORPC approves \\$52 million in transportation project funding](#) (3/14/2025)
- [Steering the Future: Weigh In On Central Ohio's Transportation Plans – 1808Delaware](#) (3/15/2025)
- [Columbus area gets \\$52M in new federal grants funding bridges, paths](#) (3/16/2025)
- [Dublin, Ohio's state of the city is strong, city manager says](#) (3/17/2025)
- [MORPC announces \\$52 million for projects – The Daily Reporter](#) (3/20/2025)
- [MORPC committed to county projects - Delaware Gazette](#) (3/21/2025)
- [Planning aplenty for Delaware County - Delaware Gazette](#) (3/21/2025)
- [Columbus leads the Midwest in population growth, boosted by immigration, data shows](#) (3/23/2025)
- [Morrow County part of regional planning efforts - Morrow County Sentinel](#) (3/24/2025)

Digital Content:

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

- Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Water Quality; SOTR; Member Monday; Women's History Month; Ramadan; Air Quality Report; Attributable Funds; TIP & CORPO Open House; Community Housing Resource Fair and MORPC News

Reach:

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

Top Posts:

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

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC is a member of the Central Ohio Belonging Consortium (formally, Central Ohio Diversity Consortium) and on Wednesday, March 4, 2025 we hosted "Common Ground: Connecting Culture in Central Ohio."
- C&E and Residential Services participated in the Franklin County Auditor's Housing Resource Fair, held on Saturday, March 8, 2025. This was a great opportunity for residents to learn more about MORPC's programs and services.

Social Media:

- Attributable Funds: 3/14/2025,
- COMTO Coffee Chat: 2/25/2025, 2/28/2025
- Transportation Improvement Program: 3/11/2025, 3/19/2025
- Community Housing Resource Fair: 3/12/2025

Marketing Campaigns:

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

Member Visits Completed

- Chillicothe – March 26, 2025
- Ashville – March 26, 2025
- South Bloomfield – March 26, 2025

Upcoming Member Visits

- Circleville – April 15, 2025
- Lockbourne – April 15, 2025
- Bexley – April 16, 2025
- Jefferson Township – April 16, 2025
- Franklin Township – April 30, 2025
- Prairie Township – April 30, 2025
- Upper Arlington – April 30, 2025
- Worthington – April 30, 2025

Communications

- Membership Newsletter – March 11, 2025

Member Benefits

- On-board Orientation for the City of Marion – March 4, 2025

External Participation

- State of the Cities:
 - Bexley – March 4, 2025
 - Mt Vernon – March 26, 2025
 - Pickerington – March 6, 2025
 - Delaware – March 20, 2025
 - Gahanna – March 27, 2025
- Mid-Ohio Development Exchange Annual Meeting – March 7, 2025