



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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
*BOARD ROOM***

Thursday, April 3, 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: 221 619 410 525

Passcode: Wv74HS9z

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

[614-362-3056](tel:614-362-3056), Columbus

[\(888\) 596-2819](tel:(888)596-2819), United States (Toll-free)

Phone conference ID: 599 213 000#

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Michelle Crandall, Chair
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - Approval of [March 6, 2025 minutes](#)
3. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, Executive Director
4. **Committee Updates**
  - **Bylaws Committee** – Haley Lupton, Chair
  - **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Joseph Garrity, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
  - **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

- **Proposed Resolution 05-25:** “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) to become a Regional Engagement Partner for the Charging Smart program” – Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning
  - **Proposed Resolution 04-25:** “Authorizing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) the ability to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency” – William Murdock, Executive Director & Edwina Teye, Senior Water & Natural Resources Program Manager
  - **Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization** – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Development Officer
  - **Transportation Policy Committee** – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Development Officer
5. **Proposed Resolution 02-25:** “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with and receive funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program” – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Development Officer
6. **Proposed Resolution 03-25:** “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the City of Columbus regarding the coordination and development of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging’s new Regional Council of Governments and enter into related subcontracts” – Joseph Garrity, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
7. **Draft Commission Agenda**
8. **Other Business**

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

**The next Executive Committee Meeting is**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 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. 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 is S. Front Street & W. Blenkner St. Buses that accommodate this stop are the Number 61 - Grove City, the Number 5 - West 5th Ave. /Refugee, and the Number 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. 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 Planning Commission Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 6, 2025  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Board Room

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### **Members Attending in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong	Ben Kessler	Matt Starr
Chris Amorose Groomes	Kris Long	Joe Stefanov
James Jewell	Haley Lupton	

### **Members Attending Remotely**

Kristen Atha	Jeff Benton	Laurie Jadwin
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### **MORPC Staff Attending in Person**

Parag Agrawal	Shawn Hufstедler	William Murdock
Steve Armstrong	Jessica Kuenzli	Shari Saunders
Matika Fields	Eileen Leuby	Robert Williams
Joe Garrity	Kelsey Matson	

### **Welcome – Ben Kessler**

Acting Chair Ben Kessler called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

### **Consent Agenda**

Matt Starr made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by LaGrieta Acheampong; motion passed.

### **Executive Director's Report – William Murdock**

William Murdock presented the [Executive Director's Report](#). Mr. Murdock noted MORPC is having favorable discussions with Fayette County. This is part of the ongoing effort to ensure all counties are represented at the regional table.

March 5 was Passenger Rail Advocacy Day at the Statehouse. There is an overwhelming supportive response regarding passenger rail advocacy among the 56 legislators who participated, which is crucial for securing state funding for step two of the studies. We are receiving significant support and commitments from cities along the line. So far, pledge commitments are over \$300,000, and other partners in Indiana and Pennsylvania are also considering support.

Mr. Murdock discussed the uncertainty in federal funding and the status of various grant applications and how MORPC is actively monitoring the landscape to be prepared in the event there are budgetary complications. The team built a matrix to track 38 different federal funds that touch the organization. The FHWA confirmed funding is available and we can move forward with the \$2 million EVC RAA grant to fix/replace electric vehicle charging stations. The team is closely monitoring other grants, including the \$15 million charging fueling infrastructure grant, which is still pending. They are prepared to adjust their plans based on the outcomes of these applications.

The 208 Process Review Committee is nearing completion of the sewer facility boundaries and proactive dispute resolution process. They worked through various scenarios with attorneys and other entities to ensure a comprehensive plan. The final meeting is next week. The committee is expected to make a recommendation to the Commission to become an areawide district. Upon approval by the Commission, MORPC will negotiate final details with Ohio EPA, including funding.

The Regional Water Study is on track to be completed by the end of the month. An event is scheduled April 17 to present the findings and breakdowns for each county. The goal is to connect communities to

resources for their water planning needs. Kristen Atha shared that she received an update that the drought is officially over, and the Central Ohio reservoirs are full or will be full by the end of March.

MORPC Team Members are attending several state of the city, state of the county, state of the township, and other regional meetings. If your community is not on the list, let us know so we can attend.

The March 21 State of the Region sold out this week with close to 1,000 people registered. The keynote speaker is Bruce Katz, author of *The New Localism*. This year we focused on increasing member attendance. Member attendance is well over 50 percent. We also have record sponsorship.

### **Bylaws Committee – Haley Lupton**

Haley Lupton reported the Bylaws Committee met February 13 for orientation. At the March 25 meeting, the committee will focus on committee updates. After that they will focus on administrative changes.

### **Regional Policy Roundtable – Joe Garrity**

Joe Garrity reported the Regional Policy Roundtable met February 18 and heard an update on homelessness from YWCA's Liz Brown and Lutheran Social Service's Rachel Lustig. James Coyne, State Director for Senator Bernie Moreno, focused on how the senator wants to partner with local governments to bring investment back to the region and state.

Mr. Garrity gave the legislative update highlighting:

- Federal budget deadline and budget reconciliation bill – feedback from the congressional delegation is to resubmit projects
- Passenger rail funding – seeking \$5 million to help Ohio Rail Development Commission and help pay for local match for four routes
- Rural Transportation Planning Organization funding
- Central Ohio Defense Group – focusing on protecting jobs

Laurie Jadwin shared the City of Gahanna passed a joint resolution and proclamation urging the maintaining of the tax-exempt status on municipal bonds. The Ohio Municipal League is working on this as well. Chris Amorose Groomes shared the City of Dublin also passed a resolution in support of the tax-exempt municipal bonds. The subject is also on the March 7 Central Ohio Mayor's and Manager's Association (COMMA) agenda.

Mr. Garrity will research SB 104 on short-term rentals.

### **Regional Data Advisory Committee – Jessica Kuenzli**

Jessica Kuenzli reported Christina Drummond stepped down from the City of Grandview City Council. With that the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) is looking for a new chair. A reminder that the RDAC chair must be a Commission member.

### **Sustainability Advisory Committee – Jessica Kuenzli**

Jessica Kuenzli reported MORPC issued the annual air quality report covering November 2023 through October 2024. Brandi Whetstone will present the report in more detail at next week's Commission meeting. Team Members are prepared to respond to the upcoming IQAir study report, which previously claimed that Central Ohio has poor air quality. MORPC deployed sensors offering neighborhood specific data throughout Franklin County to provide real-time air quality information.

MORPC is hosting a series of webinars and workshops on securing our energy future. Topics include permitting, zoning, funding, and emerging technologies. Ms. Kuenzli is seeking feedback on potential speakers and topics for the series that will run from May through August.

- **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”**

MORPC received funding from ODOT’s special bike/ped grant solicitation to update the regional bikeways map and advance strategies identified by the Central Ohio Greenways Board. The project includes developing a bike level stress map, trail map, curated cycling routes, and a trail town story map template.

Joe Stefanov made a motion to approve Resolution 01-25, second by Chris Amorose Groomes; motion passed.

#### **Transportation Policy Committee – Parag Agrawal**

Parag Agrawal highlighted action items coming before the Transportation Policy Committee next week: expanding the MPO boundary to include the Village of Plain City and the City of Johnstown; updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and adopting attributable funding commitments.

Mr. Agrawal reported ODOT notified MORPC that we received \$150,000 for a US 23 Active Transportation Plan.

#### **Draft Commission Agenda**

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft March 13, 2025 Commission Meeting Agenda.

#### **Other Business**

Kris Long shared that the Ohio Municipal League and the National Association of Counties is looking into the proposed elimination of FEMA.

Chris Amorose Groomes made a motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting, second by Matt Starr; motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary  
**Executive Committee**



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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:** March 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 05-25: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) to become a Regional Engagement Partner for the Charging Smart program”**

In March, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) submitted an application to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) to become a Regional Engagement Partner for the Charging Smart program. As a Regional Engagement Partner, MORPC would support local governments in Central Ohio to adopt best practices related to electric vehicle charging and help them achieve Charging Smart designation of either bronze, silver or gold. Focus areas covered by the program include planning, regulation, government operations, education and incentives, utility engagement, and shared mobility. As a Regional Engagement Partner, MORPC staff would work with IREC to lead a cohort of communities through the program. If selected, MORPC would receive funding of up to \$50,000 to cover personnel and administrative costs.

Notice of selection is anticipated to occur mid-April, with work beginning in May. The program period is anticipated to last approximately ten months through February of 2026. Given the timing, this resolution is being submitted pre-emptively in order to enter into contract with IREC, if selected.

Attachment: Resolution 05-25

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

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Interim Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Interim Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Interim Secretary*

RESOLUTION 05-25

**“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) to become a Regional Engagement Partner for the Charging Smart program”**

WHEREAS, if selected, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) seeks to contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to act as a Regional Engagement Partner to support local governments in the region to adopt electric vehicle charging best practices and achieve Charging Smart designation; 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 IREC for up to twelve months to serve as a Regional Engagement Partner of the Charging Smart program with grant funds totaling up to \$50,000.
- 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: April 10, 2025  
Submitted by: Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer  
Prepared by: Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: April 10, 2025



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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Brandi Whetstone  
Director of Sustainability

**DATE:** March 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 04-25: **“Authorizing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) the ability to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency”**

MORPC has been providing services to Ohio EPA in support of 208 planning and mapping in Central Ohio for the past four years. 208 Plans, also known as Water Quality Management Plans, describe and promote efficient and comprehensive programs for controlling water pollution from point and nonpoint sources in a defined geographic area.

Recently, it was requested by Ohio EPA that MORPC further their role and consider becoming a designated Areawide Planning Agency for the region. The designation would position MORPC to take the lead in updating and maintaining the region’s water quality management plans, working with local governments to determine sewer service providers and define service areas; facilitating boundary modifications and dispute resolutions related to facility planning areas; and assist with reviews of permit-to-install applications received by Ohio EPA for the designated service area. There are currently six Areawide Planning Agencies in the state of Ohio covering 24 counties, including such areas as Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, and Toledo.

Over the past ten months, MORPC has been convening an ad-hoc committee to evaluate whether this is the best approach for the Central Ohio region. In working with the committee, MORPC feels confident stepping into this larger role as an Areawide Planning Agency for the following counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking and Union; a map of the proposed service area can be found in Figure 1 below. MORPC also proposes to continue to support Ohio EPA for 208 planning and mapping in six additional counties.

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Interim Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Interim Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Interim Secretary

Potential benefits of designating MORPC as the Areawide Planning Agency for Central Ohio include:

- **Driving investment and supporting economic growth**
  - Our region has experienced unprecedented levels of economic growth, especially in advanced manufacturing, over the past several years with new opportunities continuing to be announced. This level of development and its impact on water and sewer infrastructure requires localized review and attention as well as proactive planning, which would be provided under the establishment of MORPC as an Areawide Planning Agency.
- **Expedited permit review with reduced impact on Ohio EPA**
  - Allowing MORPC to serve in this capacity for the five counties will not only allow for a timelier review and approval of permits in that area but would also provide additional capacity for Ohio EPA through reduced workload allowing it to continue to serve the other areas of Ohio not covered by Areawide Planning Agencies.
- **Created for the region, by the region**
  - MORPC is a trusted convener and catalyst for regional initiatives in Central Ohio in infrastructure, development, environment, and more as well as a longtime partner with Ohio EPA. It also serves and represents 90 local governments of all sizes – rural, urban, and suburban. Allowing MORPC to lead this effort will ensure that the framework is constructed in a way that meets the needs of our growing region and ensures vested stakeholders have a seat at the table.

At its March 13 meeting, the ad-hoc committee passed a motion to recommend that the MORPC Board consider a resolution at the April meeting to authorize the agency to continue to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency. This recommendation was made contingent upon MORPC securing sufficient funding for this effort, and that the work be governed and structured by the policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the ad-hoc committee. The attached resolution has been drafted to reflect these conditions. Following MORPC Board approval, MORPC will work in collaboration with Ohio EPA to conduct a public engagement process with affected stakeholders.

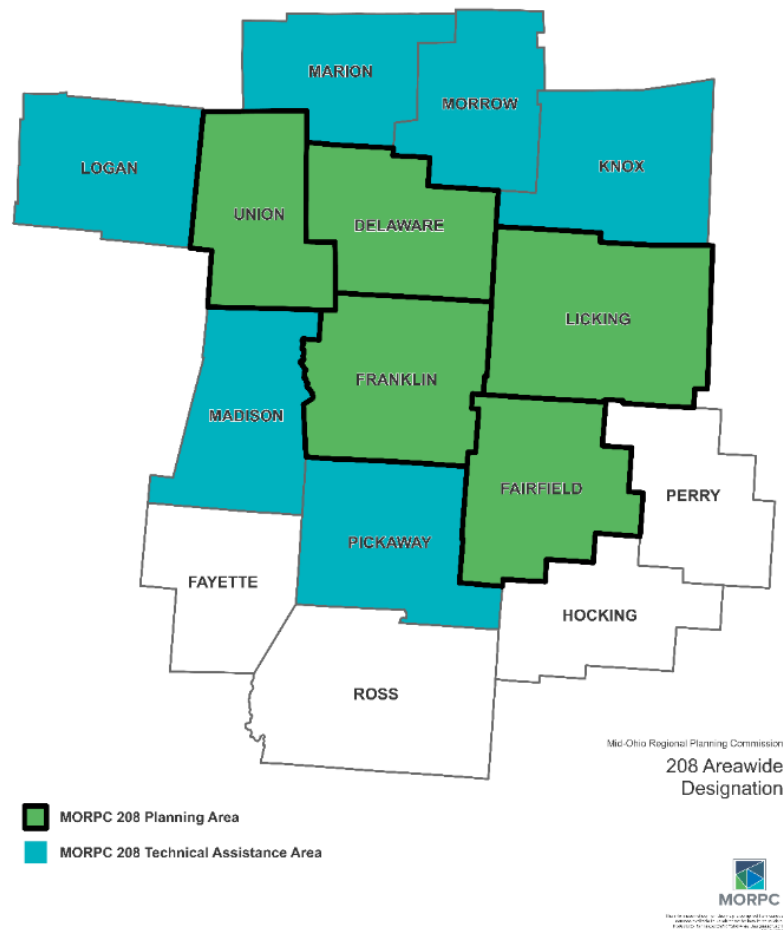


Figure 1. Proposed MORPC 208 Planning Area (green) and Technical Assistance Area (blue)

Attachment: Resolution 04-25

RESOLUTION 04-25

**“Authorizing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) the ability to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency”**

WHEREAS, for the past ten months an ad-hoc committee of MORPC members has been convened to evaluate if MORPC shall pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency by the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, allowing MORPC to lead this effort will ensure that the framework is constructed in a way that meets the needs of our growing region and ensures vested stakeholders have a seat at the table; and

WHEREAS, MORPC would assume this expanded role for the counties of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, and Union; and

WHEREAS, MORPC continuing this work is contingent upon securing sufficient funding for staff capacity to support this effort; and

WHEREAS, the Areawide Planning Agency will be governed by policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the ad-hoc committee; and, the Areawide Agency’s governing body includes the ad-hoc committee’s recommended representation; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That MORPC may continue to work with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Ohio to designate MORPC as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency.
- Section 3. 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: April 10, 2025  
Submitted by: Brandi Whetstone, Director of Sustainability  
Prepared by: Brandi Whetstone, Director of Sustainability  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: April 10, 2025  
Attachment: Draft MORPC Areawide Wastewater Facility Planning Policies



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## **MORPC Areawide Wastewater Facility Planning Policies**



## Contents

<b>Purpose And Introduction</b>	1
<b>i. Areawide Water Quality Management Committee Structure</b>	2
Composition of Areawide Facility Planning Technical Committee	2
<b>ii. History Of Clean Water Act and Water Quality Management Plans</b>	4
<b>iii. Definitions</b>	5
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	5
Areawide Planning Agency	5
Management Agency (MA)	5
Wastewater Designated Management Agency (DMA)	5
Primary Wastewater Designated Management Agency (Primary DMA)	6
Secondary Wastewater Designated Management Agency (Secondary DMA)	6
Facility Planning Area (FPA)	6
Columbus Metropolitan Facility Planning Area	6
Community-level FPAs	6
Satellite Community	6
Communal Systems	6
Sanitary Sewer Service Area	6
<b>General Legal Authority</b>	7
Powers of the County Commissioners	7
<b>Policies</b>	8
<b>Policy A Facility Planning Area (FPA) – Boundary Creation, Overlaps &amp; Modification Process</b>	8
<b>Policy A-1 Creation of a New FPA</b>	8
<b>Policy A-2 Facility Planning Area Boundary Modification</b>	9
<b>FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines</b>	9
<b>Facility Planning Area (FPA) Modification Process</b>	10
<b>Policy A-3 Criteria for the Existing Designated Management Agency (DMA) to Maintain Sewer Planning Responsibilities within an Existing Facility Planning Area (FPA)</b>	10
<i>Cost-Effective Guidance</i>	10
<i>System Affordability Guidance</i>	11
<i>System Efficiency and Integrity Guidance</i>	11
<i>Construction Grant or State Revolving Fund Guidance</i>	11
<i>Undue Harm</i>	11

<i>Compensation for Existing Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure .....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Sanitary Sewer Service Agreements.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<b>Conditions of FPA Policy A-3 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Extension of Service by the Existing DMA .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Unacceptable Sewer Service Conditions .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Alternative Sewer Plan .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Concerns of Affected Local Governments .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Sanitary Sewer Service Agreements.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Legal Authority.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<b>Policy A-4 Criteria for the Transfer of Sewer Planning Responsibilities within an Existing Facility Planning Area (FPA) to a New Designated Management Agency (DMA) or New Facility Planning Area (FPA).....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Overlapping FPAs .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>FPA Boundary Conflicts.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Policy B Designated Management Agencies .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Policy B-1 Nomination of New Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) and New Facility Planning Areas (FPAs).....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Policy C Community-level Facility Planning Areas.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Policy C-1 Boundary Changes, Community-level FPAs .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Policy D Wastewater Prescriptions .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Policy D-1 Modifications to Prescriptions.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Policy E Consistency Review .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Policy E-1 Consistency Review.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Policy F Packaged Plants .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Designated Management Agencies and Seat Allocation.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Facility Planning Area (FPA) Modification Request Packet and Guidelines .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix 2a: Facility Planning Area (FPA) Minor Modification Process .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 2b: Facility Planning Area (FPA) Major Modification Process .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Flowchart showing the process(es) when a major FPA Boundary modification is requested .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>.....</b>	<b>25</b>

DRAFT

## Purpose And Introduction

The purpose of this policy document is to present background and establish policies to guide the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) process for review and approval of updates to Wastewater Treatment Facility Plans and or modifications to their associated Facility Planning Areas in accordance with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act and Ohio laws and regulation.

In Central Ohio, MORPC is the designated Areawide Planning Agency for Delaware, Union, Licking, Franklin and Fairfield counties. MORPC also provides 208 technical assistance services including comprehensive planning and facility planning designation support for Logan, Marion, Morrow, Knox, Madison and Pickaway counties (Fig. 1.1)

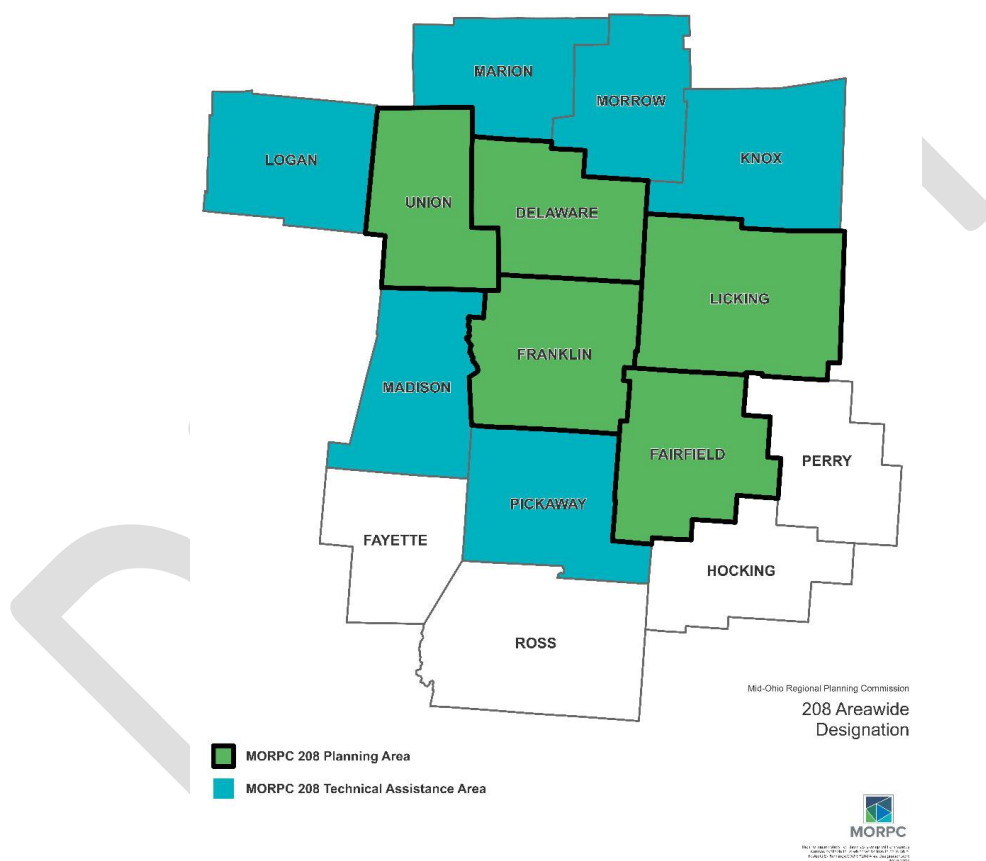


Fig. 1.1. MORPC 208 Planning Area and Technical Assistance Area

In the undesignated areas of Ohio, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) carries out the municipal wastewater planning function. Wastewater Treatment Facility Plans and their associated Facility Planning Areas are the cornerstones of MORPC's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP). The purpose of periodically updating Facility Plans and Facility Planning Areas is to ensure that wastewater treatment needs are met in ways that are comprehensive, cost-effective and protective of water resources into the future.

## i. Areawide Water Quality Management Committee Structure

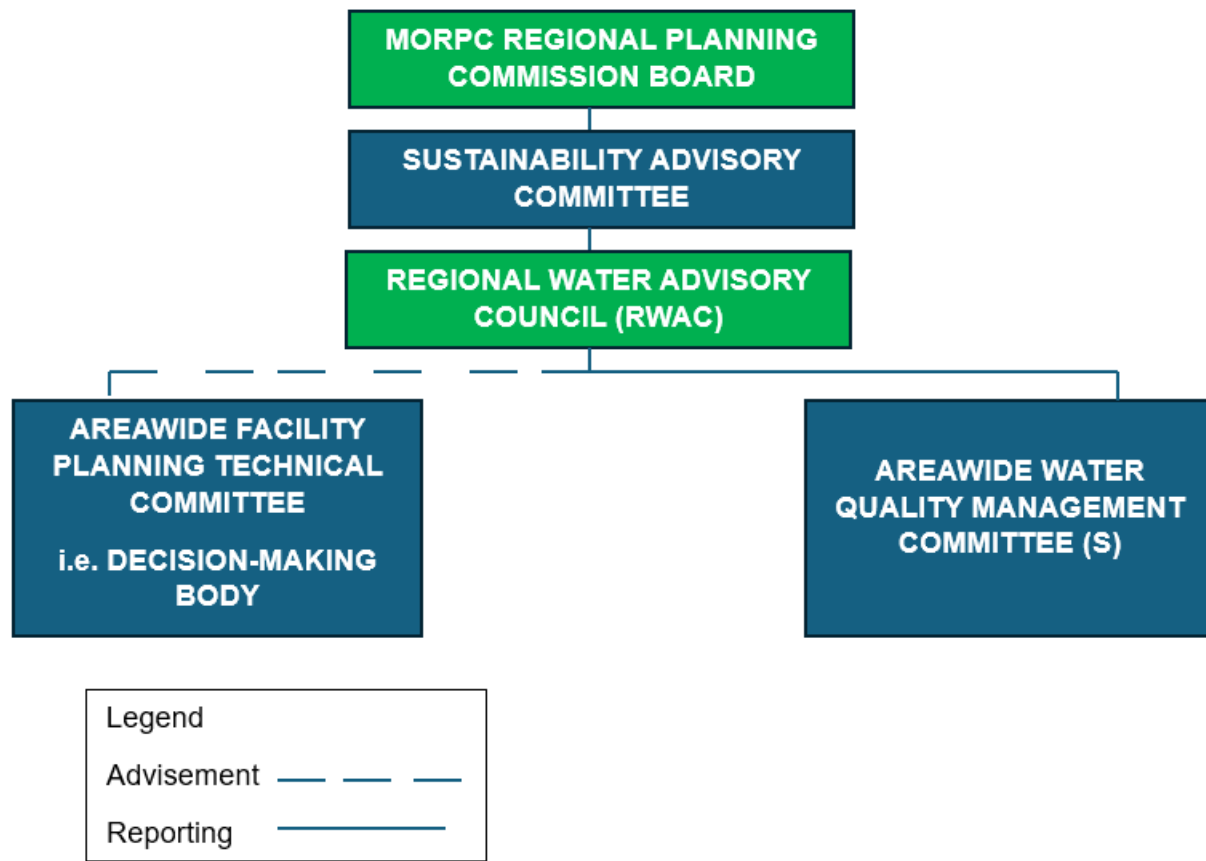



Fig. 1.2. Areawide Water Quality Management Committee Structure

The Areawide Facility Planning Technical Committee (the “Technical Committee”) is the final decision-making body in the Facility Planning Modification Process and will only advise the RWAC on decisions made.

### Composition of Areawide Facility Planning Technical Committee

The Areawide Facility Planning Technical Committee (the “Technical Committee”) serves as the final authority for reviewing and approving updates to Wastewater Treatment Facility Plans and modifications to their associated Facility Planning Areas. To ensure its independence, the Technical Committee evaluates 208 Plan establishment and modification independently from the MORPC Regional Planning Commission Board.



Consequently, the Technical Committee advises the Regional Water Advisory Council, the Sustainability Advisory Committee, and the MORPC Regional Planning Commission Board. This reporting structure is illustrated by the dotted lines in the chart above. Tenure of entities and additional operational rules that govern the Technical Committee are found in the By-laws.

The Technical Committee consists of 12 seats, two of which are non-voting and comprising of the following:

- **5 Permanent Seat** - Sanitary engineer or substantial equivalent from the Planning Area with municipal wastewater treatment and/or NPS pollution management responsibilities or major regional wastewater provider.
  - 1 City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities**
  - 1 City of Marysville**
  - 1 Fairfield County Sanitary Engineer**
  - 1 Licking County Representative**
  - 1 Delaware County Regional Sewer District**
- **5 representatives from Designated Management Agencies** (DMAs) in the Planning Area. The quota for seat allocation is based on the average design flow of the DMAs in the planning areas in Appendix 1.
- **2 State Agency Representatives** - Ohio EPA Division Chief, Surface Water and Ohio Department of Natural Resources i.e. Chief of Water Resources who shall be a non-voting members.



## **ii. History Of Clean Water Act and Water Quality Management Plans**

Water Quality Management Plans, also commonly referred to as 208 Plans, describe and promote efficient and comprehensive programs for controlling water pollution from point and nonpoint sources in a defined geographic area. The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 (as amended) sets forth the legislative basis and water quality planning requirements under sections 205(j), 208 and 303 of the Act.

Section 208 of the Act describes the requirements for Areawide plans, and Section 303(e) describes the state requirements. The state of Ohio's WQMP incorporates all Areawide plans.

Section 208 of the CWA further establishes integrated and coordinated facility planning for municipal and industrial wastewater management. Subsequently, the section allows for the designation of an organization capable of developing effective areawide waste treatment management plans. These are also known as Areawide Planning Agencies and in urban areas where competition for service areas is expected to be a concern, the Clean Water Act also calls for Areawide Planning Agencies to assist in the resolution of such conflicts as they might arise.

Historically, six Areawides were designated by Ohio's Governor in the 1970s to act as lead planning agencies in urban regions. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is the seventh agency to be designated as the lead planning agency for the Central Ohio region in 2024. MORPC through the Technical Committee and additional committees focused on the plan development establishes the areawide water quality management plan for its counties. This single document is incorporated into the State's WQMP after which the Governor certifies the entire 208 Plan via submission to U.S. EPA for its approval.

### iii. Definitions

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency: Ohio EPA oversees the State Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan. The State WQM Plan is a requirement of Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and must include nine (9) discrete elements below:

*Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).*

*Effluent limits.*

*Municipal and industrial waste treatment.* This is identification of anticipated municipal and industrial waste treatment works, including combined sewer overflows.

*Nonpoint source management and control.*

*Management agencies.* This is the identification of agencies necessary to carry out the plan and provision for adequate authority for intergovernmental cooperation. Management agencies must demonstrate the legal, institutional, managerial and financial capability and specific activities necessary to carry out their responsibilities.

*Implementation measures.* This is the identification of implementation measures necessary to carry out the plan.

*Dredge and fill program.* This is identification and development of programs for the control of dredge or fill material.


*Basin plans.* This is Identification of any relationship to applicable basin plans developed under section 209 of the Act.

*Ground water.* This is Identification and development of programs for control of groundwater pollution

Areawide Planning Agency: The 208 plans, or areawide waste management treatment plans, can only be prepared by the State of Ohio or one of the seven areawide planning agencies. Each areawide planning agency maintains a single 208 plan covering the counties in its jurisdiction.

Management Agency (MA): A single local management agency for each area where sewers are in place or planned. MAs include municipalities, counties, and sanitary sewer districts authorized under Ohio law to perform these functions.

Wastewater Designated Management Agency (DMA): Owners and operators of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs, also known as Publicly Owned Treatment Works or POTWs) are identified in these policies as the Wastewater Designated Management Agencies. Each DMA is responsible for developing and maintaining a Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan (FP) that identifies and prescribes wastewater management options in a surrounding Facility Planning Area.



Primary Wastewater Designated Management Agency (Primary DMA): An entity with legal authority, managerial capacity, and financial resources to plan wastewater conveyance and treatment for its Facility Planning Area. A Primary DMA typically owns and operates the POTW within its designated FPA(s).

Secondary Wastewater Designated Management Agency (Secondary DMA): An entity with legal authority, managerial capacity, and financial resources to plan for wastewater conveyance, but that has sewer service agreements with a Primary DMA(s) to treat its wastewater, or where a county or regional sewer district exists under ORC 6117 and 6119, respectively. Secondary DMAs are responsible for planning, building, operating and maintaining sewers under their jurisdiction, subject to a sanitary sewer agreement(s). There may be multiple Secondary DMAs within each FPA.

Facility Planning Area (FPA): The FPA serves as the geographic area for which each primary DMA shall develop and maintain a Facility Plan to provide adequate wastewater treatment within the FPA over a 20-year time frame. Each facility plan shall include prescriptions that describe how and by whom wastewater will be managed within that FPA, as well as allocations for projected growth within that FMA.

Columbus Metropolitan Facility Planning Area: A large contiguous area of Columbus and the surrounding vicinity that has, or is likely to need, central sewers and presently is, or could be in the future, served by City of Columbus wastewater treatment facilities.

The area is comprised of all of Franklin County, portions of Fairfield County in Violet, Bloom and Greenfield townships, portions of Licking County in Etna, Jersey and Monroe townships, portions of Delaware County in Harlem, Orange, Concord and Genoa townships and portions of Union County in Jerome Township. All the villages, municipalities and unincorporated areas within this boundary are included.

Community-level FPAs: A land area within the Metro Columbus RFPA where an entity other than the City of Columbus is the management agency for wastewater treatment.

Satellite Community: A community that owns and operates a sanitary sewerage system, as defined in ORC §6111.01, but does not own or operate a wastewater treatment plant.

Communal Systems: Treatment works that collect sanitary waste flow from more than one building or property and convey that flow to a treatment system that may be located on or off site of the property or properties served. Communal systems may be privately or publicly owned. They may serve residential, commercial, or industrial uses. They may discharge treated waste either to a permitted receiving stream, or the discharge may be constrained to a designated area where it is allowed to infiltrate the ground or evaporate into the air. Examples of communal systems include, but are not limited to, package wastewater treatment systems and spray irrigation systems.

Sanitary Sewer Service Area: A discrete geographic area within which a specific DMA or other entity has authority and major infrastructure needs in place (e.g., trunk sewer lines, lift stations, interceptors, treatment capacity) to provide for the collection and treatment of sewage. The collection and/or treatment of sewage may be provided through legally executed contracts for such services, or other forms of intergovernmental agreements deemed acceptable to the parties involved.



## General Legal Authority

### Powers of the County Commissioners

Pursuant to [ORC 6117.01\(B\)\(1\)](#), a board of county commissioners may lay out, establish, consolidate, or otherwise modify the boundaries of, and maintain, one or more sewer districts within the county and outside municipal corporations. Pursuant to ORC 6117.05, when a board of county commissioners has established one or more county sewer districts and any portion of a sewer district is incorporated as, or annexed to, a municipal corporation, the area so incorporated or annexed shall remain under the jurisdiction of the board of county commissioners until all planned improvements are completed or until the board has abandoned the improvements. Therefore, the county sewer district shall be the Primary DMA and its boundaries shall be the primary FPA, except as the board of county commissioners having jurisdiction over the county sewer district may otherwise agree in writing. Consequently, in the event of a modification request affecting an area under the jurisdiction of a county, the Technical Committee shall defer to all county legislation and agreements which are both effective and established consistent with the Central Ohio 208 Plan in effect as of the date of this policy.

The Technical Committee shall defer to all existing county sewer district legislation and agreements during a modification request within an area under jurisdiction of the county sewer district and shall require any entity to have the written approval of the board of county commissioners having jurisdiction over the county sewer district as part of any modification request/dispute resolution process.

## Policies

### Policy A Facility Planning Area (FPA) – Boundary Creation, Overlaps & Modification Process

MORPC shall maintain master maps of each DMA's FPA boundaries. The FPA serves as the geographic area for which each primary DMA shall develop and maintain a Facility Plan to provide adequate wastewater treatment within the FPA over a 20-year time frame. Each facility plan shall include prescriptions that describe how and by whom wastewater will be managed within that DMA, as well as allocations for projected growth within that DMA.

**Policy A-1 Creation of a New FPA:** [Table 9-1](#) of the 2006 State WQMP Plan (main text) provides facility planning guidelines. Entities performing wastewater facility planning should consider the following guidelines to assist the State with information that can be included in the updates to the State 208 plan.

Steps	Materials Submitted in Facility Plan
1. Delineate current service area	Provide up to date maps of the current sewer service area with all trunk lines and pump stations shown. If possible, these maps should be in a standard GIS format, or a CAD format transferable to GIS software.
2. Evaluate sewer system conditions	Identify needed improvements; provide cost estimates.
3. Evaluate need for additional sewer service area	Define a study area (FPA); delineate the geographic area that was evaluated relative to growth/development and the need for central sewers (provide on map).
4. Delineate projected service area	Forecast and map new areas expected to be sewered in the next 20 years (projected service area); provide cost estimates
5. Develop prescriptions for wastewater treatment in areas without sewers	Evaluate options and select interim prescriptions for areas expected to be sewered within 20 years; Evaluate options and select permanent prescriptions for areas not expected to have sewers.
6. Evaluate wastewater treatment capacity	Itemize improvements, if any, to meet current needs (population now served) and provide cost estimates.
7. Determine future capacity need for treatment	Forecasts of population growth and other demands used assess the treatment capacity needed in next 20 years
8. Evaluate future wastewater treatment capacity options	Identify feasible alternatives, select most likely option(s); Itemize improvements to meet future needs and provide cost estimates.
9. Develop general plan to implement improvements	Provide a capital improvement plan to finance necessary sewer and treatment upgrades;

	Include a schedule for improvements (sewers and treatment plant); Provide an operation and maintenance plan.
10. Qualify as Management Agency	Agree to provide services indicated in 208 plan; Obtain written agreements with other governmental jurisdictions if service involves more than one jurisdiction

## **Policy A-2 Facility Planning Area Boundary Modification**

### **Who Can Submit an FPA Modification Request?**

A Primary or Secondary DMA listed in Tables (will be updated with data) can request an FPA modification. MORPC staff may also initiate FPA modifications to keep FPA information and maps current.

A DMA may request a redefinition of its boundaries (i.e. expansion or reduction of its service area) through the FPA Modification Procedures below. The modification procedures require the DMA requesting the modification to solicit support from all affected jurisdictions, including any other Primary or Secondary DMAs potentially affected by the redefinition.

All modifications to FPA boundaries, as well as the establishment of new FPAs, require approval from the Technical Committee. These changes take effect once approved by the Technical Committee and will be included in the next update of the Areawide Water Quality Planning Committee submitted for certification.

MORPC's Technical Committee favors FPA boundary modification requests that are backed by local, regional, or watershed planning efforts. Examples of such plans include, but are not limited to, sewer master plans, watershed action plans, balanced growth plans, and community master plans. If an FPA boundary modification request contradicts any relevant and current planning efforts, the requesting DMA should explicitly address this issue in its application to the Technical Committee.

Additionally, DMAs should reach out to MORPC staff at the beginning of any potential 208 Plan modification for help and guidance. Changes to FPA boundaries or Prescriptions involve additional steps and time before the Technical Committee approval process.

### **FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines**

The FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines (found in Appendix 2) outline the information MORPC requires from DMAs for FPA modification requests. MORPC staff might ask for additional information after the initial submission.

### **Facility Planning Area (FPA) Modification Process**

Steps in a typical FPA Modification Request submitted to MORPC follow the process in Appendix 2. A DMA must provide justification for the following criteria in order to maintain sewer responsibilities within an existing FPA during a modification request.

### **Minor & Major Modification Process**

What constitutes a major and minor modification will be determined on a case-by-case scenario and relative to a system's capacity.

For minor modifications, the following is adhered to:

- I. Small changes require demonstration of adequate capacity to handle additional wastewater
- II. No public notice is required.

For major modifications, the following is adhered to:

- I. Facility Plans for the affected area must be completed
- II. Public notice is required.

The type of modification will follow the process in Appendix 2a or 2b


### **Policy A-3 Criteria for the Existing Designated Management Agency (DMA) to Maintain Sewer Planning Responsibilities within an Existing Facility Planning Area (FPA)**

In all cases of challenge, the responsibility of sewer planning will remain with the existing DMA in each established FPA when the existing Primary or Secondary DMA (except as noted) can demonstrate any of the following:

- a. The proposal is not cost-effective.
- b. The requested change would significantly and negatively impact the existing DMA's sewerage system affordability.
- c. The requested change would compromise the existing Primary DMA's sewerage system efficiency or integrity, defined as the ability to meet its NPDES permit limitations.
- d. The requested change would result in a violation of a condition of a Section 201 Facilities Construction Grant received through the USEPA or a provision of a state revolving fund loan administered by the Ohio EPA.
- e. The existing Primary or Secondary DMA can show that it will suffer undue harm that will not be offset by a net positive impact from the proposed FPA change.
- f. The existing Primary or Secondary DMA has constructed components of their sewerage system (WWTP or collection system) to serve the area of the requested FPA boundary change and has not received compensation for these capital expenditures from the applicant for change or affected jurisdiction(s) proposed to be removed from the existing FPA.

The current Primary or Secondary DMA is responsible for providing the Technical Committee with documentation demonstrating how it meets the relevant criteria to retain its sewer planning authority. The Technical Committee will be guided by the interpretation below:

*Cost-Effective Guidance:* The overall resource costs for the proposed FPA modification would be considerably greater than if the area stayed within the existing FPA. These costs encompass financial



expenses, environmental and social impacts, and other non-monetary factors assessed over the project's anticipated duration.

*System Affordability Guidance:* The existing DMA retains the right to provide sewer service for a proposed modification area if it can demonstrate that the request would significantly affect the affordability of the current or future sewer system. An assessment of system affordability should consider the following factors, based on guidelines from the US EPA [Clean Water Act Financial Capability Assessment Guidance](#). Additional guidelines can be accessed at [Water Environment Federation \(WEF\)](#):

- The impact on households served by the system, particularly those in the lowest 20th percentile of household income (Lowest Quintile Income, LQI).
- The percentage of households within the system that are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- The financial capability of the current utility and affected communities, including metrics such as sewer rates, number of customers, consumption per account, operation and maintenance expenses, existing debt, and capital expenditure forecasts.


Existing DMAs may provide additional affordability matrices, which will be reviewed by the Technical Committee and relevant committees for relevance. DMAs may also contact the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) for assistance with questions related to system affordability, subject to availability of time and resources. MORPC staff will collaborate with Ohio EPA DEFA as needed to address system affordability concerns.

*System Efficiency and Integrity Guidance:* Concerns about system efficiency and integrity involve expectations that a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) may fail to comply with its NPDES or similar discharge permit limits. MORPC staff may seek assistance from Ohio EPA to evaluate system efficiency and integrity issues raised by Primary DMAs.

*Construction Grant or State Revolving Fund Guidance:* The USEPA or Ohio EPA must certify cases where Facilities Grant or state revolving fund loan conditions prevent a requested change in FPA boundaries. The DMA holding the grant or loan must provide certification to MORPC from USEPA or Ohio EPA.

*Undue Harm:* The existing DMA can document additional impacts to its sewer system that would result from the Technical Committee approving the proposed FPA modification(s). The Technical Committee will assess any undue harm in relation to the probable net benefits of the FPA modification request, as well as consider the financial and social equity aspects. For instance, the Technical Committee can evaluate whether the benefits of the modification outweigh the potential drawbacks.

*Compensation for Existing Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure:* The approval of a FPA modification request hinges on whether the existing Designated Management Agency (DMA) is compensated by the applicant for any changes or for affected jurisdictions proposed to be removed from the FPA. This compensation should cover any prorated capital expenses related to wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) or sewer collection systems that have been incurred to provide current or future sewer services to the modification area. The Technical Committee will decide if such compensation is necessary as a condition for approving the FPA modification request.



*Sanitary Sewer Service Agreements:* The Technical Committee will review any existing and legally binding sanitary sewer service agreements or similar wastewater agreements that might override some of the criteria outlined in FPA Policies A – 3 or A – 4. However, FPA Policies A – 3(c) and (d) are exceptions to this review. The proposed FPA modification must not impair the ability of the existing Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) to comply with its NPDES permit conditions or breach any existing USEPA or Ohio EPA wastewater grant or loan conditions.

*Ohio EPA Director's Final Findings and Orders:* When sanitary sewer infrastructure is required to comply with [Ohio EPA Director's Final Findings and Orders \(Orders\)](#), the sewer planning status of the existing DMA is contingent upon its readiness and willingness to undertake necessary sewer extensions and capacity upgrades. If an existing DMA is determined by the Ohio EPA to be unprepared or unable to proceed in a timely manner, another DMA may request a modification of the FPA boundary to take over sewer planning responsibilities for the area, even if one or more criteria in Policy A-3 apply to the existing DMA.

### **Conditions of FPA Policy A-3**

FPA Policy A-3 outlines six criteria that the existing DMA may use to justify retaining sewer planning responsibilities. If the existing DMA asserts that any of these criteria apply to a proposed FPA modification, the applicant can present evidence to refute these claims. The Technical Committee will evaluate the validity of the information provided by all DMAs.

*Extension of Service by the Existing DMA:* The existing DMA's ability to retain its responsibilities is contingent upon its readiness and willingness to proceed with sewer extensions and, if needed, capacity upgrades in the affected area. If the existing DMA is not prepared or unable to act in a timely manner, the applicant may request a modification of the FPA boundary. The Technical Committee will assess the existing DMA's capability, willingness, and timeliness in extending sanitary sewer service based on the submitted information.

*Unacceptable Sewer Service Conditions:* Applicants must provide detailed information regarding any claims of unacceptable sewer service conditions by the existing DMA. Common issues cited may include excessive tap-in fees, required annexation, high sewer rates, and delays in sewer extension. The Technical Committee will evaluate whether the existing DMA's sewer service conditions are deemed unacceptable based on all relevant information submitted.

*Alternative Sewer Plan:* To request a modification of an existing FPA boundary and transfer sewer planning responsibilities to a new DMA, the applicant must present viable wastewater treatment alternatives. It must be demonstrated that this reassignment will not impair the current Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)'s ability to serve the affected area while meeting its NPDES permit requirements. The alternative sewer plan must also estimate the impact on the existing POTW's rate structure and ensure that it does not create a gap or discontinuity in the existing FPA that could hinder the existing DMA's ability to extend sanitary sewer services within its FPA. The Technical Committee and staff may consult with the Ohio EPA or other appropriate entities to assess the technical, environmental, and financial aspects of the proposed alternative sewer plan.

*Concerns of Affected Local Governments:* According to the FPA, DMA, and Prescription Modification Process, the applicant must notify and seek support from all affected jurisdictions (including DMAs, cities, villages,



townships, and counties) within the challenged area. For FPA Policy B – 2(c), "affected local government(s)" specifically refers to the entities with political and administrative authority, not just sewer planning authority.

The Technical Committee encourages the applicant to address concerns from all affected jurisdictions. However, the applicant must specifically address concerns from the affected local government(s) regarding the proposed FPA modification. These concerns must be resolved before the Technical Committee will consider the modification.

In addition to addressing FPA Policies A-3 and A-4 (outlined below), the applicant should also address other relevant information raised by the affected local government(s). The Technical Committee will determine if the applicant has adequately addressed the concerns of the affected local government(s).

*Sanitary Sewer Service Agreements:* The Technical Committee will consider any existing and legally enforceable sanitary sewer service agreements or similar wastewater agreements that might override one or more criteria listed under FPA Policies A-3 or A-4, with the exceptions of FPA Policies A-3(c) and (d). The proposed FPA modification must not compromise the existing Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)'s ability to comply with its NPDES permit conditions or violate any terms of existing USEPA or Ohio EPA wastewater grants or loans.

*Legal Authority:* The applicant must possess the legal authority under current Ohio and federal law to provide sanitary sewer service to the area affected by the FPA modification. This includes any sewer service established by existing and legally enforceable agreements.

**Policy A-4 Criteria for the Transfer of Sewer Planning Responsibilities within an Existing Facility Planning Area (FPA) to a New Designated Management Agency (DMA) or New Facility Planning Area (FPA)**

FPA Policy A-4 outlines the criteria that a Primary or Secondary DMA can use to take over sewer planning responsibilities from an existing DMA for a specific area within an existing FPA. This shift in responsibilities usually involves modifying the FPA boundary to include the affected area in an existing or newly established FPA. The applicant must provide documentation to the Technical Committee to address these criteria.

In all cases of challenge, the responsibility of sewer planning within an established FPA can be transferred to a new DMA or new FPA when the DMA applicant for change (applicant) can demonstrate all the following:

- a. None of the conditions established by FPA Policy A-3 apply.
- b. The existing DMA is unprepared or is unwilling to extend service to the challenged area, or that they have conditions unacceptable to the applicant community.
- c. An alternative sewerage plan exists that protects the environment, and the alternative plan is technically achievable, economically justifiable, and all relevant concerns by the affected local government(s) with jurisdiction over the challenged area have been addressed.
- d. The proposed DMA has legal authority to act.

The Technical Committee will review all pertinent information submitted to determine if the applicant meets the requirements of FPA Policy A-4. Additionally, they may consider concerns from affected jurisdictions and assess the overall fairness of the proposed FPA modification request.

**Overlapping FPAs:** In the 2006 state WQMP, it was recommended that regional wastewater and water quality planning was necessary in Central Ohio and in addition to the recommendation below:

“The next 208 Plan update will consider the outcome of any locally negotiated sewer service agreements, possible delineation of facility planning area boundaries, and, dependent upon the threats to water quality, a possible a moratorium on sewer line extensions...”

Following from this, the overlap of multiple FPAs will not be permitted in the Facility Plan and FPA updates. The Facility Planning process is designed to offer a structured and efficient approach to wastewater treatment planning. Allowing the overlap of FPAs can lead to confusion and conflicts, as well as potentially result in duplicated efforts, unnecessary public spending on redundant infrastructure, and excessive plant capacities.

In areas where historic overlaps exist, DMAs may consider establishing a Primary-Secondary relationship to resolve boundary issues.

**FPA Boundary Conflicts:** Conflicts between DMAs may arise and may take various forms including:

- a. One DMA desires to assume facility planning responsibility over a portion of an adjacent FPA, where that FPA's Primary DMA has not provided desired wastewater planning **OR**
- b. Two or more DMA's desire to assume facility planning responsibilities in an area not within any FPA.


Applicants involved in any of the conflict scenarios identified must strive to find a solution that satisfies all parties involved. Upon request, the Areawide Facility Planning Technical Committee, also known as the Technical Committee, may suggest alternatives to the parties involved. Alternatives may be solicited from the expertise of the Areawide Facility Planning Technical Committee or an ad hoc committee. For the Technical Committee to approve boundary requests to be incorporated into the State WQMP, applicants involved in a conflict may consider a Primary-Secondary agreement as a possible solution.

## **Policy B Designated Management Agencies**

### **Policy B-1 Nomination of New Designated Management Agencies (DMAs) and New Facility Planning Areas (FPAs)**

Entities interested in becoming new DMAs for providing sanitary sewer service in newly established FPAs must obtain approval from the Ohio EPA for their facility plans. Additionally, MORPC requires an amendment to integrate these new facility plans into the 208 Plan.

Entities that are not currently DMAs must apply for DMA status before Ohio EPA will process their permit application. To be designated as a DMA, the applicant must have sufficient legal authority under Ohio and federal law, clearly define the geographical scope of the proposed FPA and sewer service area and show evidence of consulting with and obtaining support from all affected local governments with sewer planning authority (including municipalities, counties, and regional sewer districts). Any disputes regarding FPA boundaries must be resolved with the existing DMA(s) or appealed to the Technical Committee, in accordance with FPA Policies A-3 and A-4.



Applicants may propose an FPA area that is larger than the current or proposed sewer service area if it benefits future sewer planning. Once the Ohio EPA reviews and approves the FPA designation request, MORPC's Technical Committee will adopt a resolution formalizing the designation.

## **Policy C Community-level Facility Planning Areas**

### **Policy C-1 Boundary Changes, Community-level FPAs**

[Under 25-P3a](#), of the State WQM adjustments to the boundaries of any of the Community-level FPAs may be requested at any time. All petitions for adjustments, i.e. minor or major boundary adjustments must include written endorsements of support from each affected management agency, each affected satellite suburban community, and any other political jurisdiction or private entity that has authority to provide wastewater collection and treatment for the area in question.

Facility Plans for the affected area must be completed as part of the modification request.

For minor modifications, the following is adhered to:

- I. Small changes require a demonstration of adequate capacity to handle added wastewater.

For major modifications, the following is adhered to:

- II. The Director of Ohio EPA shall require appropriately detailed updated facility planning documentation. Boundary adjustments, if granted, will be part of the State of Ohio 208 Plan upon review and approval by Ohio. EPA.


## **Policy D Wastewater Prescriptions**

### **Policy D-1 Modifications to Prescriptions**

The Technical Committee must approve all changes to Prescriptions. [Appendix 9-1](#) of the State WQM details the generic prescriptions for wastewater.

Below are the generic prescriptions for wastewater treatment:

1. All discharging systems shall meet effluent limits designed to attain the more stringent of:
  - a. all applicable water quality standards, including antidegradation requirements; and
  - b. where applicable, best available demonstrated control technology for new sources discharging sanitary wastewater, best available technology, or secondary treatment.
2. All municipal management agencies with home rule powers are responsible for sewage collection and treatment within their respective corporate boundaries. Such service may be provided by the management agency or through contracting for such services. Sewer service may be extended to annexed land, and to areas beyond the corporate boundaries, provided the management agency has the capacity to adequately collect and treat all wastewater under the terms of its NPDES permit.




When the proposed extension is beyond the corporate boundaries and within a sewer district established under ORC 6119 or 6117, and the land is not annexed, the extension of sewer service will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

3. The construction of new, or the replacement of existing, sewage treatment systems or non-discharging on-lot sewage treatment systems for semi-public, private, or industrial entities shall not be permitted where a public sewer is available. Such facilities may be permitted where sewers are not available, on the condition that they will be required to tap in when public sewers become available.
4. New or replacement home sewage treatment systems (HSTS) shall not be permitted where a public sewer is available. Where sewers are not available new or replacement HSTS may be permitted if applicable sanitary codes administered by the County health department or local health department are followed, on the condition that the HSTS will be required to tap in when public sewers become available.
5. The County Commissioners (or a sewer district under ORC 6119) are responsible for sewage collection and treatment in unincorporated communities. Where sewers are not available, approval of individual home sewage treatment systems (HSTS) is the responsibility of the County health department or local health department and shall follow applicable sanitary codes.
6. Where sewers are not available, on-lot sewage treatment systems for semi-public, private, or industrial entities may be installed if permitted by Ohio EPA or, if the board of health of a city, county, or general health district has permitting authority for small systems (less than 1,000 gallons per day), permitted by the county health department. General health district means a health district of the combined townships and villages in each county.
7. The County Commissioners under ORC 6117 have authority for central sewers and sewage treatment in all unincorporated areas; when unsanitary conditions exist Ohio State WQM Plan - Appendix 9-1 Final 2006 Pg 4 EPA may require that the County Commissioners fix the problem.
8. Where a sewer district has been organized under ORC 6119, Ohio EPA may require said sewer district to eliminate unsanitary conditions.
9. Ohio EPA will only approve the installation of new wastewater collection and treatment systems to serve a new or existing housing developments provided the applicant has submitted an acceptable plan documenting how the system will be managed, maintained and operated. An acceptable plan could include the choice to turn management, maintenance and operation over to an existing management agency listed in this 208 Plan, or the choice of contracting with a competent private professional wastewater services company. An unacceptable plan might include the choice to have an inexperienced or poorly qualified entity, individual, or homeowners' association assume sole responsibility for system management, maintenance and operation.

Primary DMAs should regularly maintain/update Prescriptions within their FPAs in consultation with the Secondary DMA(s) and affected local jurisdictions. Prescriptions must comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. To the extent that a Prescription involves the enlargement of an existing POTW, the construction of a new POTW, or the extension of sewers, that option must conform to consistency requirements in Policy E.

The development of a Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan or Plan Update involves the identification of viable local wastewater management options or prescriptions. To accomplish this each FPA shall be subdivided according to the type of wastewater treatment in existence, proposed, and/or predicted. The following categories generally occur:



Category	Description
1	Areas currently served with sanitary sewers
2	Areas expected to be served with sanitary sewers connected to an existing POTW during the next twenty years
3	Areas expected to be served with sanitary sewers connected to a new POTW in the next twenty years
4	Areas expected to remain on individual on-lot systems or semipublic systems, and where local officials are oriented to maintaining an unsewered status for the foreseeable future
5	Areas currently unsewered where local officials are oriented to accepting sewers if feasible and if found to be consistent with the AWQMP
6	Areas for which no wastewater management options have been declared

Table 2. Wastewater Prescription Categories

All proposed prescription modifications must follow the FPA, DMA Process outlined in Policy A-3 and A-4 and F. Applicant must demonstrate consultation with communities in its FPA to ascertain community preferences for sanitary sewer service.

## Policy E Consistency Review

### Policy E-1 Consistency Review

MORPC staff will conduct a Consistency Review for submitted FPA modification requests based on the following criteria:

- A. The proposed FPA boundaries versus those in **State WQMP**
- B. The population projections versus those in collated by MORPC
- C. The proposed Prescriptions versus those in **State WQMP**
- D. Adherence to Policy A-3 and A-4 for contested FPA modification requests
- E. Completion of the affected jurisdictions' comment period to ensure adequate notification and opportunity to comment on the proposed FPA modification

Consistency Review will determine if the FPA modification request can proceed to the Technical Committee or if additional information is necessary. Once a request is ready to proceed, staff will prepare a recommendation and present the FPA modification request to the Technical Committee for consideration.

## Policy F Packaged Plants

While Central Ohio includes several small wastewater treatment “package” plants that are owned and managed by commercial enterprises or mobile home parks, this 208 Planning Policy is focused on publicly owned wastewater treatment works.

## Appendix 1: Designated Management Agencies and Seat Allocation

Designated Management Agency	Permitted Capacity (MGD)	Group	Members
City of Columbus	182	County Sanitary Engineer or City Equivalent	5 Permanent Members
Delaware County	16.4		
City of Marysville	8		
Fairfield County Utilities	4.6		
**Licking County			
Lancaster (2 facilities)	14	Large (> 3.0 – 5.0 MGD)	1 Member on rotation and self-selected
Delaware City	10		
Newark	8		
Licking Regional Water District	4.5		
Pickerington	3.2		
Canal Winchester	2.48	Medium (>1.01 – 3.0 MGD)	2 Members on rotation and self-selected
Heath	2.25		
Buckeye Lake	2		
Hebron	1.5		
Johnstown	1.2		
Sunbury	1.125		
Pataskala	1.1		
Baltimore	1.01		
Granville	0.911	Small (0.1 – 1.0 MGD)	2 Members on rotation and self-selecting
Galena	0.5		
Franklin County (Darbydale)	0.45		
Utica	0.423		
Walnut Creek Sewer District (Pleasantville & Thurston)	0.4		

Richwood	0.38		
Bremen	0.336		
Millersport	0.302		
Ashley	0.19		
Hanover	0.16		
Stoutsville/Tarlton	0.125		
Union County (2 facilities)	0.125		
Kirkersville	0.1		
**Aqua Ohio	2.73	Smaller & Private Entities ( $< 0.1$ )	
Ostrander	0.09		
Alexandria	0.08		
Sugar Grove	0.07		
Hartford	0.06		

\*\* Licking County stakeholders will determine the entity that will represent the County in the 5 permanent seat category. The selected entity will not be eligible for selection in the other categories.

\*\*DMAs with ADF below 0.1 are ineligible for representation on the Technical Committee but will be engaged in additional DMA meetings.


\*\*PUCO regulated entities while included in the list of DMAs are ineligible to participate in the Technical Committee but will be engaged in additional DMA meetings.



**Appendix 2: Facility Planning Area (FPA) Modification Request Packet and Guidelines**

The Designated Management Agency (DMA) must submit the following applicable information to propose an FPA modification:

- A. Applicant Information – DMA Name, Contact Person's Name, Telephone Number, Email Address and Mailing Address
- B. Proposed FPA Modification Description
  - a. Location
  - b. Current FPA and DMAs


- 
- c. Proposed FPA and DMAs
  - d. Current Prescriptions for Wastewater Treatment (Prescriptions)
  - e. Proposed Prescriptions
  - f. Map(s) of proposed change(s)
  - g. List of all parcels by number, wholly or partially, within the modification area
  - h. Total acres within the modification area
- C. Why is an FPA Modification Needed? Address the following questions (when applicable):
- a. Is the current DMA unable or unwilling to extend service to the amendment area?
  - b. Does the current DMA have conditions to extend service that are unacceptable?
  - c. Does an alternative sewerage plan exist that:
    - i. Protects the environment?
    - ii. Is technically achievable?
    - iii. Is economically justifiable?
    - iv. Has the support of the affected local governments?
  - d. Is there conveyance and treatment capacity within the existing sewerage system to accept the wastewater flow from the modification request area?
  - e. Does the FPA modification request conform to sanitary sewer agreements or similar wastewater treatment agreements for the area?
- D. Development Impacts
- a. Is the modification request primarily for new construction (residential or commercial)?
  - b. Is the modification request area within a U.S. Census Bureau urban area?
  - c. Estimate of the number of new homes or structures proposed for construction
  - d. Estimate the amount of new sanitary sewer infrastructure to serve the requested modification area (e.g. linear feet of gravity sewers, linear feet of force main sewers, number of pump stations, etc.).
  - e. Is the proposed sanitary sewer infrastructure expansion part of an asset management plan?
  - f. Estimate the projected capacity impacts to the transportation system that may result from the proposed developments.
- E. Notification Efforts
- a. List of all affected jurisdictions within the proposed modification area, including other DMAs, cities, villages and townships.
  - b. Summary of the affected jurisdictions comment period, including any comment letters (see the template below) received or relevant information on the date of contact.
- F. Miscellaneous
- a. Historical Information
  - b. Previous FPA modification requests for the area
  - c. Other pertinent information
- G. Submittal
- a. Applicants should mail the FPA modification request packet to MORPC's Executive Director.
  - b. Applicants should also submit an electronic version to MORPC Water & Natural Resources staff.



DRAFT

## **Appendix 2a: Facility Planning Area (FPA) Minor Modification Process**



- a. A DMA notifies MORPC staff of its desire to modify an FPA.
- b. MORPC staff inform the DMA of its FPA modification process, required documentation, affected jurisdictions, and other pertinent information detailed in the FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines (Appendix 2).

- 
- c. The DMA submits an FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines to MORPC.
  - d. MORPC staff conduct Consistency Review of the DMA's request (see Policy E).
  - e. \*MORPC staff prepare a minor FPA modification summary and decision, and forwards said summary and recommendation to the Chief Regional Planning Officer of the Agency for approval.
  - f. Minor modifications will be included as agenda items to be reported on to the Technical Committee.

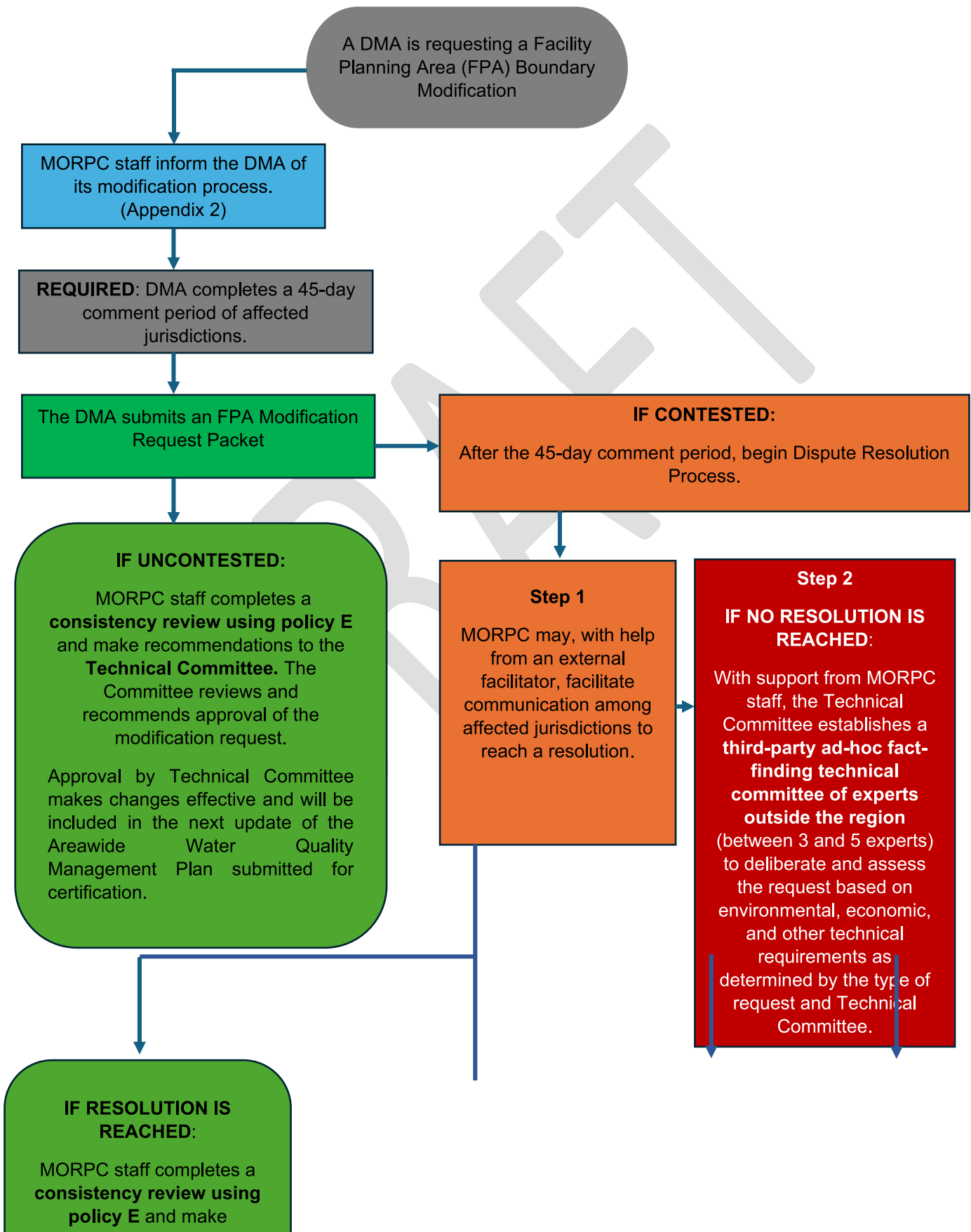
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## **Appendix 2b: Facility Planning Area (FPA) Major Modification Process**

- a. A DMA notifies MORPC staff of its desire to modify an FPA.
- b. MORPC staff inform the DMA of its FPA modification process, required documentation, affected jurisdictions, and other pertinent information detailed in the FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines (Appendix 2).

- 
- c. The DMA initiates and completes the maximum 45 calendar-day comment period for affected jurisdictions.
  - d. The DMA submits an FPA Modification Request Packet and Guidelines to MORPC.
  - e. MORPC staff conduct Consistency Review of the DMA's request (see Policy E).
  - f. If there is no agreement among the affected jurisdictions, MORPC will attempt to organize a meeting(s) with the jurisdictions to reach consensus.
  - g. MORPC staff prepare an FPA modification summary and staff recommendation to the MORPC Technical Committee to begin the review and approval process. The process follows the steps in Appendix 3 below.
- 

## Appendix 3: Flowchart showing the process(es) when a major FPA Boundary modification is requested



Recommendations from third-party ad-hoc fact-finding technical committee will be relayed to the affected jurisdictions, **and if a consensus is reached,**

MORPC staff completes a **consistency review using policy E** and make recommendations to the **Technical Committee.**

The Committee reviews and recommends approval of the modification request.

Approval by Technical Committee makes changes effective and will be included in the next update of the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan submitted for certification.

Recommendations from the third-party ad-hoc fact-finding technical committee will be relayed to the affected jurisdictions and **if a consensus is not reached,** the Technical Committee will be notified.

***The Technical Committee may recommend renegotiations or recommend legal recourse at the expense of the affected jurisdictions.***



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Parag Agrawal, AICP  
Chief Mobility and Development Officer

**DATE:** March 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 02-25: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with and receive funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program”**

In February 2025, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) applied for and was awarded \$136,400 in funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program.

This funding will be used to develop an active transportation plan for the U.S. 23 corridor to complement the concepts identified in the Route 23 Connect Preliminary Feasibility Study. This plan is intended to inform future evaluation of those concepts as implementation progresses. The MORPC team is collaborating with ODOT District 6 staff to complete this planning process.

The Rt-23 Active Transportation Plan will accomplish the following:

- Outline the regional vision, goals, and strategies needed to support safe, convenient, and accessible active transportation options.
- Document the current state of walking and biking within a 1.5-mile radius of the U.S. 23 corridor between I-270 and Waldo (see study area map).
- Identify programs, policies, and infrastructure improvements to meet the needs of people walking and biking along and across the U.S. 23 corridor.

It is anticipated that the plan will be completed by December of 2025.

Attachment: Resolution 02-25

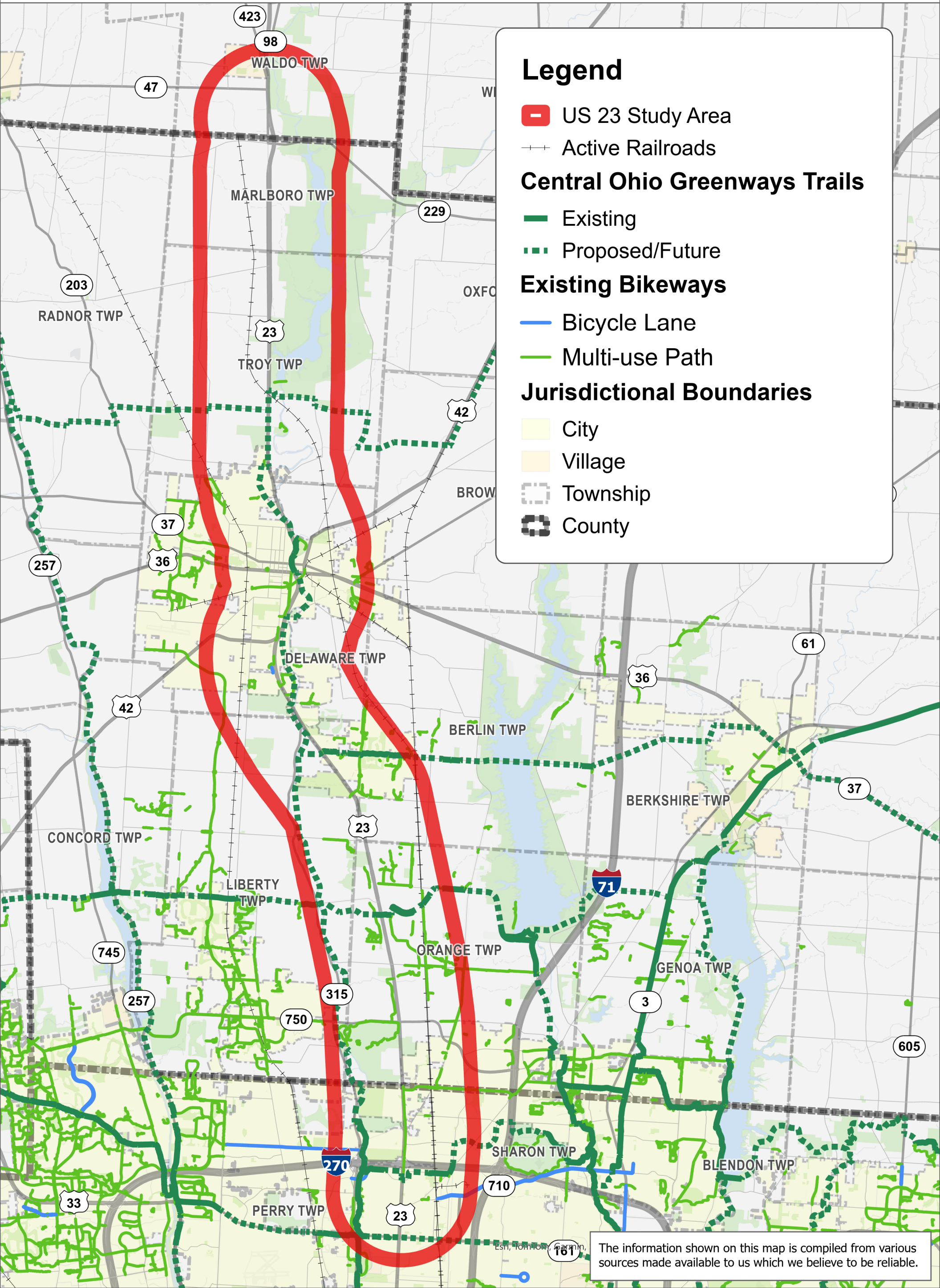
**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

# US 23 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION STUDY AREA



## RESOLUTION 02-25

### **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with and receive funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program”**

WHEREAS, ODOT seeks to contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to develop a plan for active transportation facilities along and adjacent to the U.S. 23 corridor that will complement the concepts identified in Rt-23 Connect Draft Preliminary Feasibility Study; and

WHEREAS, the MORPC Metropolitan Planning Organization State Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP) will be amended to include the US-23 Active Transportation Study; and

WHEREAS, the services performed pursuant to this contract will be conducted by MORPC staff in collaboration with ODOT District 6 and local stakeholders; 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 and accept ODOT Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation grant funds for up to \$136,400.
- 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: April 10, 2025  
Submitted by: Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Development Officer  
Prepared by: Lauren Cardoni, Active Transportation and Safety Program Manager  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: April 10, 2025



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**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Joseph Garrity  
Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

**DATE:** March 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 03-25: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the City of Columbus regarding the coordination and development of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging’s new Regional Council of Governments and enter into related subcontracts”**

The Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA), currently hosted by the City of Columbus, provides services to older adults and people with disabilities across the Central Ohio region. COAAA is transitioning to a regional model and asked MORPC for assistance to set up the transition committee and process. MORPC will assist in the coordination and development of the new Regional Council of Governments (R-COG) by 2026.

Through an evaluation of COAAA’s operations and governance structure, barriers to COAAA’s capacity to support consumers, staff, providers, and partners from within the current governance structure were uncovered. Through conversations with City leadership, the regionalization of COAAA has been identified as the path forward to ensure the agency effectively represents the interests of the eight-county region and the older adults and people with disabilities the agency serves. In order to facilitate this transition, COAAA seeks to enter into a partnership with MORPC to develop a new entity with the capacity to maintain COAAA operations without interruption, provide competitive benefits to staff, and position the organization for the future.

MORPC would provide support to COAAA such as:

- Create an Ad Hoc committee to focus on the creation of an R-COG with a focus on gaining input and guidance from key stakeholders
- Assist with the development of a plan of action to establish the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging R-COG by October 1, 2025
- Lead engagement with stakeholders at the County and State level
- Engage Bricker Graydon, LLP to provide legal and technical support for R-COG development

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

- Coordinate with regional stakeholders to conduct in-person/virtual meetings
- Meet with COAAA leadership regularly to coordinate and plan Ad Hoc meetings and R-COG development
- Provide technical support

MORPC has the capacity to assist and has identified current team members to provide primary support for this engagement.

Attachment: Resolution 03-25

## RESOLUTION 03-25

**“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the City of Columbus regarding the coordination and development of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging’s new Regional Council of Governments and enter into related subcontracts”**

WHEREAS, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) provides services to older adults and people with disabilities across the Central Ohio region; and

WHEREAS, COAAA is transitioning operating within the City of Columbus to a stand-alone regional governance model by 2026; and

WHEREAS, COAAA asked MORPC for assistance to set up the transition committee and process; and

WHEREAS, MORPC will assist in the coordination and development of the new Regional Council of Governments that will assume the roles and responsibilities currently held by COAAA for the Central Ohio region; 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 the City of Columbus regarding the creation of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging Regional Council of Governments for up to \$150,370 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: April 10, 2025  
Submitted by: Shawn Hufstedler, Chief Operating Officer  
Prepared by: Shawn Hufstedler, Chief Operating Officer  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: April 10, 2025