



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING
DATA FOR ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REMOTE MEETING

April 16, 2025, 10:00 am

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

MORPC Updates – Dave Dixon

Public Opinion Poll

Dave Dixon announced the completion of a two-year public opinion polling project that covered four core areas: transportation, environmental sustainability, housing, and economic development. This project involved public opinion polling to gather data and insights on these topics. The next phase of the project will involve asking repeat questions to establish trends and follow-up questions to dig deeper into specific items of interest. This phase aims to build on the initial findings and provide more detailed insights into the core areas.

MORPC Insights Platform

Dave announced that the MORPC Insights platform will officially launch on May 8 at the Commission meeting. It aims to make data more accessible to stakeholders by providing pre-populated data visualizations and trend analysis. Previously, accessing certain data required emailing the Data Team or working with CSV files. The new platform simplifies this process by providing online access to popular data requests.

Member / Sector Updates – Group

Members Mosca and Powell shared that the City of Columbus reached historic highs in minority and women-owned business spend, totaling \$123 million. They are pivoting to new programming and moving towards a race- and gender-neutral small business program. This program will track numbers and amplify small businesses in the city and the metropolitan region. The intent is to engage businesses regionally and develop size standards and language to encompass regional engagement. The program is currently in development and will be officially announced by the third quarter of 2025.

Member Masood shared that The Columbus Foundation is trying to avoid problematic language around initiatives, due to changing federal guidelines. They continue to review applications as before, which may contain DEI terminology within the projects or organizations' names but will include non-controversial descriptions of the work or services provided within their public communications.

Member Miller Harvey mentioned that OSU CURA is waiting to hear from the National Science Foundation on two projects: the Connect project and the Ghost Neighborhoods project. They

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

are cautiously optimistic about the outcomes. The Connect project involves building high-resolution, multimodal transportation networks and creating a data standard for that. They are waiting to hear if they will receive a one-year no-cost extension.

Member Miller also noted that OSU CURA is working with MORPC and Kerwin on a Fall Webinar series titled "Data for Access and Opportunity." He is looking for speaker recommendations including researchers, academics, and practitioners working in urban and applied settings.

Working Group Discussion Items

Updated Working Group Name

Trails and Greenspace Data Project

Members and staff discussed the potential for the Working Group to inform parameters around connecting residents to green spaces using multimodal transportation data. The project aims to identify improvements using geospatial data and better connect traditionally marginalized and underserved populations. The Working Group will participate in reviewing and advising, and sharing data to support the project. They will help ensure that the project addresses equity questions and provides actionable insights.

Other Business?


Adjourn

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group Meeting

Will be May 21, 2025, at 10:00 am.

This Meeting will be held remotely; details to follow.



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group Meeting

April 16, 2025

Members Present

Hena Masood, The Columbus Foundation
Harvey Miller, OSU CURA
Julie Mosca, City of Columbus
Aaron Powell, City of Columbus

Staff Present

Dave Dixon
Lynn Kaufman
Yan Liu

