



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 30, 2025 9:00 a.m.

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#### AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions Fritz Crosier, Chair
- 9:07 a.m. Approval of April 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- **9:10 a.m.** Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report Maria Schaper, MORPC Dave Dixon, MORPC

#### 9:20 a.m. Funding Programs

- Attributable Funds Project Status Update Thomas Graham, MORPC
- Resolution T-6-25 Adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Thomas Graham, MORPC

#### 9:35 a.m. Resolutions

 Resolution T-7-25 Amending the State Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Work Program – Maria Schaper, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP Executive Director Chris Amorose Groomes Chair Michelle Crandall Vice Chair **Ben Kessler** Secretary TAC Meeting Agenda April 30, 2025 Page 2

- Resolution T-8-25 Acceptance of the MORPC Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- Resolution T-9-25 Annual Certification of the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process – Maria Schaper, MORPC

#### 9:40 a.m. Informational Items

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• Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Program – Edwina Teye

#### 9:45 a.m. Other Business

- 1994-2024 Bikeway Facilities Comparison
- Attributable Funds Program Policy Review

#### 10:00 a.m. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY EVA REDA AT 614-233-4167 OR EMAIL ereda@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next TAC meeting is June 4, 2025, at 9 a.m.

#### Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission **Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**



Date: April 2, 2025 Time: 9:00 a.m. Location: MORPC

#### **Members Present**

Ankrom, Katharine Cox, Barbara Hamons, Shannon Komlanc, Tom Nittle, Tim Risko, Michele (online) Stargell, Reynaldo Wilfong, Gary (online)

Biesterveld, Andrew (online) Crosier, Fritz Jenkins, Tiffany Lockhart, Josh (online) Owen, Jonathan Sanders, Scott Tourville, Scott

Boucher, Christine Francis, Corey Johnson, Daniel (online) Moss, Kimberly (online) Peoples, Matthew Schamp, Letty Volenik, Andy (online)

Guests

Bush, Ryan (online) Deer, Shane (online) Hibbard, Tom (online) Prichard, Aaron Wanamaker, Gayle

#### MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag Heider, Jon Oldroyd, Shelby Reda, Eva Turner, Mary (online) Dixon. Dave

Cetina, Letitia

Hoying, Dan

Rice, Sam

Edwards, Rachel

Shuey, Jennifer

Ciotola, Michael (online) Elsea, Amy (online) Mills, Jerry (online) Stevenson, Andrea

Kuenzli, Jessica Petrov, Jordan (online)

Graham, Thomas Lewis. Elliott Ratliff. Chuck Roberts, Griffin (online)

#### I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Crosier called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. There was a quorum present.

#### П. Approval of March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

#### III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report

- Ms. Schaper informed the committee of the following:
  - Officially introduced Eva Reda, new MORPC Executive Assistant. She is the contact person for this committee.
  - Safe Streets for All Grant Opportunity (IIJA Bill) was announced with \$580 million available for implementation grants, expected to award 40-70 construction projects, and \$402 million for planning and demonstration grants, with 400-700 being awarded. The application deadline is June 26, 2025, with pre-application eligibility review deadline of May 9, 2025. MORPC is available to assist with applications.

- The upcoming Money Monday sessions hosted by MORPC's Dr. Todd Bradley were provided.
- The Ohio Active Transportation Conference is being held at Ohio Union on April 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The conference will focus on making walking and biking in Ohio safe, convenient, and accessible. The conference will feature addresses from Mayor Bibb and Bill Schultheiss.
- Mr. Dixon informed the committee of the following:
  - There will be an Air Quality webinar on April 29, 2025, from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Topics include air quality forecasting and MORPC's role, how air quality impacts public health in Central Ohio, and practical solutions for cleaner air.
  - The Ohio Business Roundtable released an Energy Competitiveness Study, highlighting the potential for electricity shortages by 2027. MORPC will host forums and events to help communities plan for a secure and resilient energy future. Sessions begin May 15, 2025. Contact Brian Filiatraut at bfiliatraut@MORPC.org if you are interested in joining us in any upcoming sessions.
  - Committee members are asked to provide their feedback on features and content on the soft launch of the MORPC Insights platform at dataandmaps@morpc.org by April 11, 2025.
  - The Leaders Listen survey results were announced which covered public opinion on economic development, housing, jobs, childcare, infrastructure, and transportation projects.
  - The new Roundabouts Dashboard was introduced, showing 163 roundabouts in the 15-county region with 47 more planned.

#### IV. Funding Programs

- Attributable Funds Project Status Update
  - Mr. Graham provided the following updates:
    - Funds had been encumbered for the West Broad Street LinkUS corridor and the Far East Freeway projects.
- SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
  - Mr. Graham provided the following updates:
    - The progress of the state fiscal year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was discussed, highlighting the inclusion of over \$4.1 billion in funding transportation improvements for the next four years, with \$1.5 billion for roadway projects (including bike and pedestrian infrastructure) and \$2.6 billion for transit projects.
    - A final draft of the SFY 26-29 TIP was posted to the MORPC website on March 11, 2025. The public comment period runs through April 11, 2025, with a final version of the document to be presented May 2025 for approval.
    - A public open house will be held at MORPC on April 2, 2025, from 3:30p-6:30p.
    - A committee member asked about the volume and nature of the TIP feedback. Mr. Graham noted they are receiving decent feedback in support of the projects with most of the feedback coming through the state system.
- Transportation Review Advisory Council Project List Update

- Ms. Oldroyd provided the following updates:
  - TRAC is responsible for awarding funds for the major new capacity program; to be eligible for this program, projects must be a minimum of \$10 million dollars, have an increased capacity of the transportation network, and have a significant economic development component.
  - Five projects were submitted in the MORPC planning area. MORPC adopted the following priorities for the projects: SR 315 North Knot, US-33 Southeast Corridor, I-71 HSR/Smart Lane, I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges, and Dublin Emerald Connector; noting two projects are recommended for funding by TRAC: US 33 Southeast Corridor (82.8 million) and the I-70 and Taylor Rd / State Route 256 interchanges (8 million).
  - TRAC public comment period is open through April 16, 2025, trac@dot.ohio.gov. The TRAC final project list vote will take place April 23, 2025.
  - The next TRAC cycle opens in May 2025.

#### V. Informational Items

- TAC Subcommittee Updates
  - Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
    - The City of Columbus Traffic Management and COTA are testing new cloud-based TSP technology on Cleveland Ave. in preparation for implementation along the West Broad St. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).
    - A committee member asked how emergency vehicles interact with the new signals. Mr. Heider stated emergency vehicles and police vehicles have preemption, which is different than TSP. With preemption the signal will automatically change to a green light or cue a green light, preemption is much faster. Preemption is a separate technology within the signal than TSP.
  - Active Transportation Committee (ATC)
    - Co-Chair Schamp invited the committee to the ATC quarterly meetings, and introduced Co-Chair Cetina, City of Columbus, and yielded the floor to them.
    - Co-Chair Cetina discussed the E. Broad St. demonstration project, which includes a three-mile projected bike lane from Parsons Ave. to Alum Creek. The project aims to slow down vehicles and reduce accidents. The demonstration project will be active through 2026.
    - Testing products include Zicla Bus Pad, an extension of the sidewalk which allows passengers to board safely without the bus having to exit the travel lane and protective bike lane barriers including K71 Bollards, Zicla Armadillos, and Zicla Zippers.
    - Co-Chair Cetina also discussed a change in shared mobility for the City of Columbus. The city is replacing CoGo with Veo and Spin, switching from a permit system to a contract system to improve service and reduce complaints. The new fleet includes sit-down scooters for increased accessibility.
    - A committee member asked if there would be areas where charging stations would be available. Co-Chair Cetina stated that there would be no charging stations available as the fleet is asset-light, however the stations will remain as bike racks.

- Co-Chair Schamp encouraged the committee to attend the Ohio Active Transportation Conference April 29-30, 2025, and the Ohio Traffic Safety Summit May 19-20, 2025.
- A committee member asked if they have documented any change in speed or driver behavior due to the protected bike lane infrastructure. Committee Member Reynaldo Stargell, City of Columbus, stated that the intent is to collect before and after traffic data.
- TAC Member Update Worthington
  - Mr. Moorehead provided an update on Worthington's transportation projects, including the Northeast Area Plan, updating Worthington's 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle Boulevard Network, Bike Rack Inventory and Expansion, Sidewalk Gap Program, and upcoming 2025 feasibility studies for Wilson Bridge & High, Olentangy Trail Maintenance, and Worthington-Galena Rd Complete Streets Feasibility Study, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update.
  - A committee member asked if Worthington would perform the sidewalk gap filling program in front of residents' property against their wishes. Mr. Moorehead stated Worthington will not fill the gap against property owners' wishes.
  - Mr. Dixon asked how the Bicycle Boulevard responses differed between cyclists using the facility, residents where the facility existed and other residents. Mr. Moorehead conducted community surveys in-person and virtual. Survey results were filtered to capture the opinions of different groups of respondents as compared to the overall population. Some of those filters included whether or not a person lived on the pilot streets, how they experienced the pilot (walking, cycling, driving), and whether they believed the safer streets would encourage them to walk or cycle more.

#### VI. Other Business

- Chair Crosier stated that the committee is interested in gathering feedback from TAC members regarding TAC and AFC. Ms. Schaper and Mr. Graham are developing a survey that will be sent out to TAC members.
- Ms. Schaper is developing a list of questions to send to TAC and AFC members. The goal is to have the survey out to the members mid-April. In addition to the survey, you may elect to meet one-on-one, or if you are interested you may join a focus group.
- Chair Crosier reminded the committee of the importance of the upcoming May 6, 2025, primary election. State Issue 2 is on the ballot, seeking renewal of the SCIP program which allows for bonds up to 250 million a year for the next ten years to fund local infrastructure improvement programs.

#### VII. Adjourn

• The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

*Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes April 2, 2025 Page 5* 

Maria M. Schap

Maria Schaper, Secretary Transportation Advisory Committee



## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

April 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:

- Coordinated to ensure the final TIP document and programmed projects were consistent with MTP goals and objectives.
- Began exploring platforms and data development for the 2025 MTP Report Card

#### Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

#### Mobility Management

- Working with RideAmigos on improvements to the Gohio Mobility platform.
- Provided the Mobility Manager in Region 6 with results from the recent Leader & Listen survey.

#### FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

• Delivered an accessible vehicle to the City of Groveport for use at their senior center. Additional awards from FY23 and FY24 are ongoing.

#### Gohio Commute

- Beta testing of the new Gohio Commute rideshare app will be completed at the end of April 2025 and the new app will launch in App stores in May 2025.
- Gohio Commute focused marketing campaign will run from May 1, 2025 June 30, 2025.
- MORPC will host a bike to work competition with local governments in May 2025.
- Staff have been helping local government agencies with Return-to-Work transportation options. This has resulted in several new vanpools traveling to Franklin County.

#### 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

- Representatives from Central Ohio traveled to Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas in late April 2025 to learn about recent and planned transit and passenger rail investments in that region, aimed at understanding lessons learned and what strategies can be employed here.
- 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):

- CORPO county subcommittee meetings were held in each of the seven CORPO counties March 17-31, 2025.
- The public comment period on the Draft SFY 2026-2029 TIP concluded on April 11, 2025. Comments were shared with the project sponsors. No changes to the final TIP were made because of comments.
- The CORPO Funds Selection committee will meet April 30, 2025, to review two budget increase requests for projects awarded funds through the SFY 2024 -2025 Dedicated Funds program.
- The CORPO Committee will meet on May 5, 2025. Some agenda items for the meeting include the FY 2026 Planning Work Program, updated CORPO Committee Bylaws, CORPO Dedicated Funds budget increase requests, adopting the 2026 2029 CORPO TIP, and the SFY 2026 2027 Policies for Managing CORPO Dedicated funds.

#### Active Transportation Planning:

- MORPC sponsored, helped organize, and led sessions for the first Ohio Active Transportation Conference hosted by ODOT on April 29-30, 2025. The conference brought together practitioners, leaders, and decision-makers from around the state to engage in conversations about making walking and bicycling in Ohio a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option.
- The Q2 MORPC Active Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The agenda featured 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. Meeting materials will be made available on the ATC web page: <u>https://www.morpc.org/committees/active-transportation-committee/</u>
- Complete Streets project reviews were completed for the following MORPC-funded projects:
  - PID 119516 Cassady Ave from Plaza Properties Blvd to Agler Rd Stage 2
  - PID 119997 Big Walnut Trail Feasibility Study
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
  - Grove City Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting #3 on April 10, 2025
  - ODOT Active Transportation Conference Planning Committee meeting on April 14, 2025
- Team members are participating in the planning committee for the <u>2025 Association of Pedestrian and</u> <u>Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Virtual Summit</u>. The summit will be held on September 23-24, 2025. A call for proposals will open soon, and registration will begin in June/July 2025. Continuing education credits will be available for attendees.

#### Transportation Safety:

- The 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program was released late on March 28, 2025. There is only one opportunity to apply this year, with a deadline of June 26, 2025, by 5:00 PM.
- Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings and safety-related events:
  - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition meeting on April 2, 2025.
  - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on April 3, 2025.
  - Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan Speed Emphasis Area Working Group meeting on April 3, 2025.
  - Ohio Association of Regional Councils Transportation Safety Subcommittee meeting on April 15, 2025.
  - Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Technical Council meeting on April 17, 2025.
  - Ohio Traffic Safety Council Traffic Fatality Review Working Group meeting on April 21, 2025.
  - Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation meeting on April 24, 2025.
- The MORPC team collaborated with partners at the City of Columbus and OSU Injury Biomechanics Research Center to host a workshop on Equity in Traffic Safety and the Safe System Approach at the Safe Mobility Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference was held April 6-9, 2025.

#### Technical Assistance Program:

- Work continues on the 2025 technical assistance services for the City of Grove City, City of Gahanna, City of Hilliard, and Village of Galena. Team members meet every other week with local project managers to discuss progress and review materials.
- A virtual stakeholder workshop was held in collaboration with the Village of Galena on April 16, 2025. Stakeholders included the Delaware County Engineer's Office, ODOT District 6, Delaware County Regional Planning Commission, and the Delaware Public Health District. Discussion focused on the existing conditions analysis and identified safety priority locations.
- A community stakeholder workshop was held in collaboration with the Village of Galena on April 23, 2025. These stakeholders included community members involved in the local Safety and Security Committee. Discussion focused on the existing conditions analysis and plans for conducting a safety audit around the Village Square.
- Team members have been conducting an in-person asset inventory and wayfinding audit of the Central Ohio Greenways within the City of Hilliard.
- Additional stakeholder meetings are scheduled for early June 2025.

#### Infrastructure Funding:

#### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

• The public comment period on the Draft SFY 2026-2029 TIP concluded on April 11, 2025. Comments were shared with the project sponsors. No changes to the final TIP were made because of the comments.

#### MORPC-Attributable Funding

• A survey was developed to be shared with the AFC to help guide the process for revising the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds.

#### Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

• The D3 (Franklin County) Public Works Integrating Committee met in April 2025 to continue discussing revisions to the district methodology in advance of the SFY 27 funding round.

#### Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- On March 26, 2025, TRAC approved the draft list of awards for public comment through April 16, 2025. Two projects in the MPO region were recommended for a total of \$90.8 million in new funding:
  - US 33 Southeast Corridor
  - I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges
- TRAC will vote on the final awards and full 2025-2028 Major New Construction Program of projects on April 23, 2025.

#### Federal Competitive Programs

• The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) opened the Safe Streets and Roads for All program on March 28, 2025. MORPC is investigating being a lead applicant for Planning and Demonstration project in the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) area.

#### Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
  - March 31, 2025: Community Shelter Board, Shannon Ison, CEO & President
  - April 7, 2025: Community Waste Reduction Grant, Kristi Higginbotham, Grant Programs Administrator, SWACO
  - April 14, 2025: America Ohio 250 Celebration & How Local Communities Get Involved, Todd Kleismit, E.D., America 250-Ohio Commission
  - April 21, 2025: Special Edition: State Legislator, Operating and Transportation Budgets

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

- The bylaws for the recently formed Economic Development District governing board and the committee that advises it, the CEDS Committee, were presented to MORPC's By-laws Committee.
- Met with Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Economic Development team, the Economic Development District in Detroit, during their peer exchange trip to MORPC. It was a valuable exchange of ideas and insights on how SEMCOG is implementing their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which is focused on talent, place, and business. A follow-up call has been scheduled to continue the conversation between the two agencies.

#### Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

• Internal coordination is in the final stages of a relaunch of the CAP program scheduled for later this summer. Additional details will be shared with MORPC members as we get closer to the launch date.

#### Brownfield Assessments:

• MORPC applied to US EPA's Community Wide Assessment grant for brownfield redevelopment at the end of 2024. Award announcements are likely in May 2025.

#### Freight Planning:

- Continued to build relationships with private businesses in the Rickenbacker Area. A business focus
  group is scheduled to learn more about their experiences with workforce mobility and retention. Insights
  will inform future freight planning initiatives.
- The second Rickenbacker Area Freight Alliance Workshop is scheduled for the end of May 2025.

### PLANNING

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

### **Community Development**

#### Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- MORPC is submitting a proposal to the Columbus Foundation Green Funds Grant Program for BLOOM (Building Landscapes of Opportunity & Mitigation), a project that will advance the Green Infrastructure Toolkit by identifying priority parcels for mitigation and pairing them with suitable green infrastructure strategies.
- With funding from ODOT, over the next year COG will be developing a Central Ohio Cycling Guide. Staff will be requesting the support of summer interns to select routes originating from MORPC, Westerville, and other regional sites to collect video image data that will support an AI safety analysis.
- 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 will begin adding "Gateways of Regional Significance" to the map to identify existing and proposed locations for premier trailheads that offer the amenities trail users need to travel the trails safely and comfortably. The Trail Development Working Group began identifying proposed Gateways of Regional Significance along the Olentangy and Alum Creek Trails.
- 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 is offering support to communities interested in implementing the recently released COG Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. The City of Hilliard is the first community to be awarded this support.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) is seeking sponsorship for the 2025 COG Forums.
- COG is encouraging communities to host Celebrate Trails Day events within their communities on April 26, 2025. Rails to Trails Conservancy is offering free drinks and marketing materials. 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 continues to assemble 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 April 28, 2025.
  - 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. The Group is working to add representatives from jurisdictions along Big Walnut Creek.

### Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

#### Outreach

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

#### Implementation Assistance

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

#### Community Based Planning Assistance:

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

#### **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; additional information can be found at: <u>https://www.morpc.org/consultant-services-program/</u>.
- If you have an RFP you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, please contact <u>consultantservices@morpc.org</u>.

#### 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 <u>ikuenzli@morpc.org</u>.

#### STEPZ Workshop

• Planning Staff are organizing the second installation of the STEPZ Workshop. STEPZ connects Central Ohio's planning community with the skills and insights needed to lead through change and shape the region's future. This workshop will be held on May 20, 2025, and the targeted audience for this session is planning staff. You can find out more information and register at:

<u>https://tinyurl.com/STEPZ-Staff</u>. If you have any questions about the event and how it can assist your community's planning staff, contact Tunazzina Alam (<u>talam@morpc.org</u>).

### Sustainability

#### Sustainability Advisory Committee:

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 (<u>bwhetstone@morpc.org</u>). The SAC will meet next on June 18, 2025, at Del-Co
Water Company.

#### Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

The Sub-committee met on March 25, 2025, to provide input on proposed strategies for the remaining goals and weighed in on the final mission and vision statement to capture the overarching themes across the agenda. Next, MORPC will roll out a draft RSA document and a survey to collect broader input and will host an online information session on April 23, 2025, from noon – 1:00 p.m. The Sub-committee will meet again in May 2025 to finalize the document before recommending approval by the Sustainability Advisory Committee at their June 2025 meeting. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org).

#### Sustainable2050:

- Plain Township recently joined the Sustainable2050 program as the newest member. MORPC will host the next Sustainable2050 member forum on May 22, 2025, featuring a presentation from Ohio EPA about their free pollution prevention assistance program.
- Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC Members. With the pending adoption of the updated Regional Sustainability Agenda, the new Member and certification process will be paused until MORPC adopts the updated framework and the associated certification levels. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at <u>bwhetstone@morpc.org</u>

#### Water Resources Program:

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

The first Regional Water Advisory Council meeting will be held on April 30, 2025. MORPC staff has
confirmed new members representing the 15-county MORPC service area. The first meeting will focus
on level-setting of the Council including the vision and priorities for the year. The group will also discuss
the recently completed <u>Central Ohio Regional Water Study</u>.

#### Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team met on April 3, 2025, to discuss the Team's scope of work and priorities for the year. The scope of work will largely be determined by the recently completed Central Ohio Regional Water Study and additional guidance from the 2015 Sustaining Scioto Study. Members of the Outreach Team also discussed active recruitment and are seeking recommendations from interested parties. The Team will meet again on July 17, 2025.

#### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

• District 3 – Franklin County

- As part of the District 3 process, preliminary screeners are encouraged and are due on June 2, 2025. District 3 has approximately \$4.5 million in Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program funds for FY 2026.
- The District is seeking nominations from the Planning, Business and Realtor category to fill a vacancy on the Natural Resource Assistance Council.
- For more information about the nomination process and Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at <u>eteye@morpc.org</u> or visit our website at <u>https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/</u>.
- 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 <a href="https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/">https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/</a>

#### Regional Water Study

- The Ohio EPA and the ODNR announced the launch of a new, interactive planning tool designed to help community leaders in Central Ohio make informed water infrastructure and community investment decisions in a manner that both protects natural resources and supports economic development.
- Visit the <u>Regional Water Study website</u> to view the full 15-county study findings and your individual county's findings and explore the interactive dashboard.
- MORPC is working in partnership with Ohio EPA to host a workshop for local governments in May 2025. More information to come.
- Webinar recordings and slide deck information from prior meetings can be accessed <u>here</u>. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section.

#### 208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- MORPC presented to Executive Committee and Commission on proposed Resolution 04-25: "Authorizing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) the ability to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency".
- The resolution was passed, and the agency will continue to work with Ohio EPA on next steps, including securing sustainable funding and the public notice process.
- Areawide Planning Agencies are responsible for updating and maintaining a region's water quality management plans which incorporate the 208 plans for wastewater.

#### Energy Planning:

#### 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, <u>bfiliatraut@morpc.org</u>.

#### Energy Planning Outreach

- On Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 12:30 2:30 PM, MORPC will host the first of four energy forum events centered on Securing Our Energy Future: Navigating Today's Energy Landscape to Better Plan, Shape, and Lead a Resilient Tomorrow. Event attendees will hear from regional leaders as they explore the challenges and opportunities shaping Central Ohio's energy future. Featured panelists include:
- William Murdock Executive Director, MORPC

- Kenny McDonald President & CEO, One Columbus
- Alex Denney VP of Government Relations & Communications, Ohio Business Roundtable

Please join us by registering here: <u>Securing Our Energy Future: Landscape of Energy Planning Tickets</u>, <u>Thu, May 15, 2025 at 12:30 PM | Eventbrite (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/securing-our-energy-future-landscape-of-energy-planning-tickets-1312014945019?aff=oddtdtcreator</u>).

Below are the other three energy forum events focused on communities better understanding and planning for a more secure, resilient, and affordable energy future:

- Thursday, June 5, 2025 Energy Permitting, Zoning, and Economic Development: How to set the table and open your community to energy and economic opportunities A full-day workshop
- July 2025, TBD Funding and Resource Opportunities: Building your energy stack
- August 2025, TBD Emerging Energy Technologies and Future Proofing the Region: What's on the energy horizon?

For more information or ideas, please get in touch with Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, <u>bfiliatraut@morpc.org</u>.

#### **Residential Solar**

- The City of Columbus has partnered with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) and is offering a new solar coop initiative – Switch Together Program. Switch Together is now available and offers a group-buying program, making it more affordable for residents to install solar panels with significant discounts. Optional add-ons such as battery storage and electric vehicle chargers are also available through the program. Switch Together offers free educational webinars and in-person events to explain the process and benefits of going solar.
- Switch Together conducts a rigorous review of installer qualifications, ensuring participants receive a high-quality installation from a trusted installer. Through the current program, the average household is expected to save \$6,735 on a high-quality solar installation. The 30% federal solar tax credit can further reduce system costs, making solar energy more accessible than ever before. It is free to register, and there is no obligation to purchase a system.
- Take advantage of this opportunity by registering at <u>SwitchTogether.com/Solar/Columbus</u> by Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

#### Air Quality

#### Air Quality Alerts

• No Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region through April 18, 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 units 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 will continue to focus on education and outreach, including a presence at the Columbus Earth Day Celebration on April 27, 2025, April 29, 2025, Air Quality Webinar, and the social media push for Air Quality Awareness Week, May 5-9, 2025.

#### Outreach

• The Air Quality team met with stakeholders through project-related outreach, including the City of Gahanna, the City of New Albany, Central Ohio Mode Shift Coalition. As noted above, the Air Quality team will also be holding a webinar on April 29, 2025, entitled "Air Quality in Central Ohio: From Background to Action," to increase outreach and awareness.

### DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

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

### Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

The RDAC met April 1, 2025, at MORPC. RDAC reviewed and discussed progress from working groups focused on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality, Data for Access and Opportunity, Cybersecurity, and Regional Data Coaching projects. Notably, we received much helpful stakeholder input on the pre-release version of the MORPC Insights platform. The soft launch feedback window closed on April 11, 2025, and public release has been scheduled for May 8, 2025, at the next MORPC Commission meeting. The committee also held a robust discussion on how best to align future efforts in support of the Regional Data Agenda, and how the next iteration of the agenda may need to adjust to reflect current progress and emerging priorities. The RDAC will meet again in-person at MORPC on July 29, 2025.

#### Working & User Groups

#### <u>Cybersecurity Working Group</u>

The Working Group met on April 15, 2025. The Working Group supported one session on cybersecurity basics at Data Day 2025, which was well received and reasonably well attended. 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: <u>https://forms.office.com/r/fc8qz5y6zh</u>.
- Data Day Working Group

The Working Group is continuing to engage with stakeholders regarding improvements and successes. One major point of consideration for Data Day 2026 is how to facilitate increasing interactive sessions and participant engagement. The Working Group is also looking for additional Members. If you have any suggestions for Working Group Members, event themes, keynote speakers, or improvements for Data Day 2026, please contact Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.

Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group

The Working Group met on April 16, 2025. To discuss how group members can best leverage their skills and availability to support the Center for Urban Research and Analysis' (CURA) Connect modeling project to leverage data to identify opportunities to improve underserved communities' access to greenspace and trails. Emphasis was given to the current most appropriate method of defining, identifying target communities and how the work could potentially be expanded in the future to consider how data could be used to evaluate access to other types of resources or amenities. In line with the new project, the working group has been renamed "Data for Access and Opportunity Working Group."

#### <u>Regional Data Coaches Working Group</u>

The Working Group met on April 3, 2025, and discussed the need for a more robust exchange of ideas within the participants in the Coaches listservs. Members are currently evaluating the working group meeting schedule and cadence as well as planning events to reach a broader audience.

Workforce and Job Quality Working Group

Over the next two months, the Working Group is planning to conduct an outreach campaign to share the draft job quality fact sheets with key stakeholders including businesses, business associations, economic and workforce development organizations, and local governments to seek their feedback. The working group will meet next on May 15, 2025.

<u>Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)</u>

The User 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: <u>02-26-25-</u> <u>COGUG-Notes-FINAL.pdf</u>. COGUG will meet again on May 21, 2025.

<u>Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)</u>

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 was released to a limited set of stakeholders in March 2025 to collect feedback prior to the full launch, which is expected to occur in late April 2025 or early May 2025. Staff received feedback from a dozen or so reviewers and will prioritize and incorporate their feedback. MORPC 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 also pursued several continuous improvement efforts:

- Evaluate the Census "DAPPS" analysis tool for possible use when developing county forecasts.
- Compare births and deaths stats from Ohio Department of Health to estimates available from Census Population Estimates Program. The results of this effort will inform MORPC's annual population estimates and possibly the county forecasts.
- Evaluate the change in Census Population Estimates Program estimates of births, deaths, and migration from one vintage to the next. The results of this effort will inform the annual population estimates.
- The team is creating a set of resources to streamline and improve the quality of surveys conducted by MORPC. Resources currently under development include a guidebook and a pool of standard questions.

#### Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

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

 MORPC continues to work 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 <u>dataandmaps@morpc.org</u>.

- 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.
- The team is collaborating with a group of graduate students in The Ohio State University Master of Translational Data Analytics program to conduct a property tax productivity analysis (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 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 students will present the results of their work on April 21, 2025.

#### 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
- 1994-2024 MPO Area Bikeway Comparison

#### Modeling Activities

- Columbus Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- TIP Community Impact Analysis
- Bixby/US-33 Interchange Modeling
- Processing traffic counts

MORPC requires 24-hour traffic count data for all traffic growth rate studies and area studies starting April 11, 2025. MORPC 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:

- Natural Resource Assistance Council Calls for Nominations to Fill MORPC.org
- PARTNER NEWS: Ohio EPA and ODNR Launch Central Ohio Water Projection Tool MORPC.org

#### MORPC in the News:

- <u>Central Ohio residents share economic concerns in survey</u> (3/27/2025)
- In Columbus, home prices are still a big problem, central Ohioans say (3/27/2025)
- What Will Bus Rapid Transit Mean for the Hilltop, Franklinton & Downtown? Columbus Underground (3/28/2025)
- How IndyGO revolutionizes bus rapid transit in Indianapolis | 10tv.com (3/28/2025)
- <u>Gov. Mike DeWine: Fate of Amtrak expansion will likely be in hands of Ohio's next governor -</u> <u>cleveland.com</u> (3/28/2025)
- <u>Central Ohio sales tax increasing Tuesday after COTA levy passed</u> (4/1/2025)
- Sales tax increases to 8% on Tuesday in Franklin and other Central Ohio counties (4/1/2025)
- MORPC seeks candidates for District 17 board vacancies | Mount Vernon News (4/1/2025)
- MORPC and CORPO to Host Transportation Improvement Program Open House on Wednesday, April 2 | ColumbusFreePress.com (4/1/2025)
- Mount Vernon Mayor Matt Starr delivers State of the City address (4/2/2025)
- OCMA Senior Advisor, Tom Homan, receives prestigious MORPC award Ohio City & County Management Association (4/9/2025)
- On Development: Local strategies, national threats Matter NewsCELE (4/10/2025)
- Dublin project on the TRAC list Delaware Gazette (4/14/2025)
- Appropriate development and keeping the rural feel of central Ohio | WOSU Public Media (4/15/2025)
- <u>Fairfield County Earns National Recognition for Comprehensive Plan and Leadership Scioto Post</u> (4/16/2025)
- Regional planning group touts its many offerings to commissioners NewsBreak (4/19/2025)

#### Digital Content:

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

 Air Quality; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Water Quality; SOTR; Member Monday; Earth Month; Passover; Easter; Healthy Homes; TIP & CORPO Open House; Community Housing Resource Fair, Transportation Innovation Forum; Regional Sustainability Agenda Info Session; Air Quality Webinar; Securing Your Energy Future; Stepz Workshop; Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC); Solar United Neighbors; and MORPC News

Performance:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Top Posts:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

#### Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC hosted its first-ever housing fair on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Hundreds of individuals attended and were able to connect with local housing experts on vital resources such as affordable housing, rental & utility assistance, homeowner education programs and more.
- Regional Sustainability Agenda Information Session: <u>4/8/2025</u>, <u>4/16/2025</u>, <u>4/17/2025</u>
- Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC): <u>3/28/2025</u>, <u>4/9/2025</u>

#### 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.

#### Events:

- Transportation Improvement Program: <u>4/1/2025</u>, <u>4/10/2025</u>
- Transportation Innovation Forum: <u>4/2/2025</u>, <u>4/16/2025</u>
- Community Housing Resource Fair: <u>4/3/2025</u>, <u>4/11/2025</u>, <u>4/12/2025</u>
- Air Quality Webinar: <u>4/7/2025</u>, <u>4/16/2025</u>

### **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

#### Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer - eleuby@morpc.org

#### Member Visits Completed

• Circleville 4/15/25; Lockbourne 4/15/25; Bexley 4/16/25; Jefferson Township 4/16/25; Hocking County 4/17/25; Franklin Township 4/30/25; Prairie Township 4/30/25; Worthington 4/30/25.

#### **Upcoming Member Visits**

• Etna Township 5/8/25; Groveport 5/21/25; Obetz 5/21/25; Perry County 5/28/25; New Lexington 5/28/25; Somerset 5/28/25; Buckeye Lake 5/28/25; Pataskala 5/28/25; Reynoldsburg 5/28/25.

#### Communications

• The Member Newsletter was issued on April 10, 2025.

#### Member Benefits

• Member benefit of the month: Gohio (Commission and in newsletter).

#### Upcoming Events

- Pre-Commission Luncheon on Housing at noon 5/8/25.
- Rural Forum Series: Dynamic Community Engagement 5/21/25.

#### **External Participation**

- State of the Cities: City of Powell 4/8/25 T. Bradley; City of Whitehall 4/10/25; City of Columbus 4/16/25; Delaware County 4/29/25.
- Building a More Walkable Community with Author Jeff Speck (Bexley 4/23/25).
- New Albany Lecture: Environmental Sustainability An Evening with Todd Brady 4/30/25.

#### Intern Program Coordination

- Conducted mentor orientations on 4/2/25 and 4/8/25.
- Secured Fellows for Summer 2025.
- Upcoming host orientations 6/1/25 and 6/6/25; Fellows host orientation 5/6/25.
- Intern Orientation One on 5/13/25; Intern Orientation Two on 6/3/25.





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

### Memorandum

- TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Officers and Board Members Transportation Policy Committee Transportation Advisory Committee Community Advisory Committee
- FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

**DATE:** April 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-6-25: "Adoption of the SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)""

As was presented during previous meetings, the TIP is a four-year program of projects and strategies that state and local governments have selected from MORPC's long-range transportation plan as priorities for Central Ohio's transportation system. It contains a listing of all regionally significant projects and projects that will require the authorization of funds by FHWA or FTA. For each project, the list describes the scope of the project, and the amount and type of funds committed to each phase of the project by state fiscal year (SFY). The TIP may be updated through formal amendments or administrative modifications.

MORPC's TIP is a component of the Statewide TIP (STIP). MORPC adopts an updated TIP every two years. Coordination with the MPO member governments and transit agencies began in January with an announcement of the beginning of the update process. In March, MORPC announced the availability of the final draft TIP and held a public open house for the TIP on April 2nd. The Transportation Policy Committee was regularly updated about the process through monthly reports and a presentation of the draft TIP.

From March 11th to April 11th, MORPC conducted a public involvement process for the Final Draft SFY 2024-2027 TIP, which included the open house on April 2nd. Staff received several comments during the open house which were answered. Comments were also received via email and an online interactive web map. Comments on specific projects were passed along to specific project sponsors. None of the comments significantly changed the final draft TIP.

William Murdock, AICP Executive Director Chris Amorose Groomes Chair Michelle Crandall Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler** Secretary



The final SFY 2026-2029 TIP is due to ODOT on May 1st and will be available at <u>www.morpc.org/tip</u>. To remain coordinated with the statewide process and MORPC's meeting schedules, the Transportation Policy Committee is being asked to adopt the TIP after the final TIP is required to be submitted to ODOT. If the Transportation Policy Committee modifies the TIP or fails to adopt it, this will be coordinated with ODOT. ODOT is aware of this situation.

#### Attachments:

• Proposed Resolution T-6-25

#### **RESOLUTION T-6-25**

# "Adoption of the SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amending and Reaffirmation of the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan"

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) by the Governor, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation and in cooperation with locally elected officials for Franklin and Delaware counties, the cities of New Albany and Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County, and Violet and Bloom townships in Fairfield County, and Jerome Township in Union County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 United States Code 134, and 49 United States Code 5303, 5305, and 5306, MORPC, as the MPO, has caused the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan dated May 2024 to be prepared; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 United States Code 134, and 49 United States Code 5304, MORPC, as the MPO, has prepared a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2029 dated May 1, 2025, and available at <a href="http://www.morpc.org/tip">www.morpc.org/tip</a>; and

WHEREAS, all projects in the TIP are included in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) although there are projects in the TIP that are advancing ahead of the time frame shown in the MTP; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 USC 134 and 42 USC 7506, the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan has been reanalyzed based on accepted methodology and has been determined to be in conformity with the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and said fact is documented in the TIP Appendix 1 : *Air Quality Conformity Determination* dated May 1, 2025, and the SFY 2026-2029 TIP projects are consistent with this conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Title VI regulations, solicitation of citizens' comments on the TIP was made by following MORPC's adopted Public Involvement Process including review by the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), advertisements in the area newspapers, sunshine mailings and an open house meeting; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Federal Transit Administration's guidelines on private sector participation, private transportation operators in the region have been involved in the planning process through representation on the Transportation Advisory Committee, the CAC and/or the Transportation Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 USC 134, the financial plan for the TIP demonstrates that it can be implemented and that it is consistent with funding reasonably expected to be available; and

WHEREAS, the TIP does not become effective until approval is received from the federal and state authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 28, 2025 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 30, 2025 recommended approval of this resolution to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That it adopts the Transportation Improvement Program for State Fiscal Years 2026 through 2029 dated May 1, 2025, as provided on the MORPC website at <u>www.morpc.org/tip</u> and recommends that its members incorporate these improvements into their transportation improvement programming for their governmental units.
- Section 2. That it amends the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to adjust the time frame of certain projects already included the MTP to match the schedule shown in the TIP and it affirms the consistency between the State Fiscal Years 2026 through 2029 TIP and the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the determination of conformity between the TIP and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as documented in TIP Appendix 1.
- Section 3. That it authorizes the Transportation Director to approve administrative modifications to the TIP as provided in Appendix C of the document.
- Section 4. That staff is authorized to make such changes to the TIP document as are needed to satisfy clarifying comments from the Ohio and U.S. Departments of Transportation, but which do not change the intent of the document.
- Section 5. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Programming Department Staff





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

#### Memorandum

- TO: Transportation Policy Committee Transportation Advisory Committee Community Advisory Committee
- **FROM:** Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director
- **DATE:** April 23, 2025

#### SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-7-25: "AMENDING THE SFY 2025 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM"

In spring 2025, MORPC applied for and was awarded funding through ODOT's Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation. This funding will be used to develop two work products:

- a Central Ohio Cycling Guide, which will serve as an update to the Regional Bikeways Plan (last updated in 2016);
- and 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.

This resolution adds work elements 66505-1000 Regional Bicycling Guide and 66506-3000 US-23 Active Transportation Study.

Attachment: Resolution T-7-25

Chris Amorose Groomes Chair **Michelle Crandall** *Vice Chair* 

Ben Kessler Secretary

#### "AMENDING THE SFY 2025 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM"

WHEREAS, following review by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the Transportation Policy Committee accepted the MORPC Planning Work Program (PWP) for Fiscal Year 2025 by Resolution T-6-24; and

WHEREAS, a new work element, Regional Bicycling Guide, as shown in the attachment, has been developed to be added to the SFY 2025 PWP; and

WHEREAS, a new work element, US-23 Active Transportation Study, as shown in the attachment, has been developed to be added to the SFY 2025 PWP; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its April 28, 2025 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its April 30, 2025 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That it hereby amends the SFY 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP) to add the work elements as shown in the attachment.
- Section 2. That staff is authorized to make such changes to the work elements as are needed to satisfy clarifying comments from the Ohio Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation, but which do not change the intent of an activity.
- Section 3. That this resolution be forwarded to ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration as evidence of acceptance of this amendment by the Transportation Policy Committee.
- Section 4. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of the committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Prepared by: Transportation Staff

Attachment : State Fiscal Year 2025 Work Element Additions

### 66505-1000 - Regional Bicycling Guide

#### Primary Contact: Melinda Vonstein

MORPC applied for and was awarded funding through ODOT's Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation in Spring 2025. This funding will be used to develop a Central Ohio Cycling Guide, which will serve as an update to the Regional Bikeways Plan – last updated in 2016. The Guide will reflect updated cycling infrastructure and promote MORPC's Trail Town efforts. The Guide is intended to promote, encourage, market cycling in Central Ohio for transportation. The guide will include:

- an update the Regional Bike Level of Stress Map;
- a 15-County Trail Map highlighting high comfort, engaging, and fun cycling routes;
- a safety assessment supported AI video imagery analysis; and
- a Trail Town Story Map for 4 communities.

Product/Method	Agencies	Schedule
<b>Biking Level of Stress Map</b> Update the Bicycle LTS data layer for the MPO area and create a digital web map resource for public access. Print new user maps to distribute across Central Ohio.	MORPC	June 2026
<b>15-County Trail Map</b> Create a public facing map of existing COG trails and curated cycling experiences for the 15- County MORPC region. Develop as digital resource and print map.	MORPC	June 2026
Safety Assessment Use AI tools to evaluate video data collected on cycling trips to assess safety conditions along portions of major cycling routes.	MORPC	June 2026
Trail Town Story Map Create a user-friendly digital story map highlighting four trail town communities in Central Ohio that can be used as a template for future trail towns.	MORPC	June 2026
Engagement Conduct focus groups, stakeholder workshops, surveys, and other innovative engagement activities to inform development of map products.	MORPC	June 2026

### **Related Activities**

60135-3000 - Safety Planning 61015-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning

#### Budget

Total Work Element Budget:	\$325,000
Spent Previous Year:	\$0
Remaining Work Element Budget:	\$325,000

Funding Sources: ODOT: \$325,000

Budget Note: ODOT Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation – no local match required.

### 66506-3000 - US-23 Active Transportation Study

#### Primary Contact: Lauren Cardoni

MORPC applied for and was awarded funding through ODOT's Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation in Spring 2025. 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.
- Identify programs, policies, and infrastructure improvements to meet the needs of people walking and biking along and across the U.S. 23 corridor.

Product/Method	Agencies	Schedule
Plan Development Develop an active transportation plan for the U.S. 23 corridor that ensures walking and bicycling remain a viable and safe travel option for communities within the study area. Coordinate the plan with other relevant initiatives and studies.	Local Governments, MORPC, ODOT	December 2025
Stakeholder & Public Engagement Collaborate with ODOT District 6 to engage relevant stakeholders in the planning process. Coordinate with stakeholders to conduct strategic public outreach at key milestones.	Local Governments, MORPC, ODOT	December 2025

#### **Related Activities**

61015-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning

#### Budget

Total Work Element Budget:	\$136,400
Spent Previous Year:	\$0
Remaining Work Element Budget:	\$136,400

Funding Sources: ODOT: \$136,400

Budget Note: ODOT Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation – no local match required.





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

#### Memorandum

TO:Transportation Policy CommitteeTransportation Advisory CommitteeCommunity Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

**DATE:** April 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-8-25: "Acceptance of the MORPC Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program"

Annually, MORPC submits a Planning Work Program (PWP) that outlines the work of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the use of regional transportation planning funds, and the regional planning activities that will be undertaken in the coming state fiscal year (SFY). The PWP outlines MORPC's annual scope of work with ODOT using federal planning dollars. The total SFY 2026 budget of all work elements is **\$13,235,439** to be spent in SFY 2026 or later. The work elements of the PWP as shown in the summary attached to the resolution is divided into four sections:

 Formula-Funded Planning Program Projects (total budget of \$4,087,377 for SFY 2026) This includes work elements related to the core federally required planning activities. These touch on all areas including Management & Operations, Transit & Human Services Planning, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Active Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Public Involvement, Regional Strategic Initiatives, member assistance, as well as work related to data, mapping, and modeling.

2) Special Studies (total budget \$7,748,062 for SFY 2026 or later)

These are special studies completed with funding outside of the core planning funds. These include work elements related to Growth and Major Economic Development Planning, Technical Assistance Program, Safe Streets for All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities, Regional Bicycling Guide, US-23 Active Transportation Study, Prioritization Process Pilot Program, Mobility Management, and 5310 designated recipients for enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities programs.

 <u>Ridesharing and Air Quality Projects (total budget is \$1,400,000 for SFY 2026)</u> This includes transportation services related to Ridesharing (Gohio Commute) and Air Quality Awareness activities.

William Murdock, AICP Executive Director Chris Amorose Groomes Chair Michelle Crandall Vice Chair **Ben Kessler** Secretary



4) <u>Projects Undertaken by Other Entities</u> This area is provided to report on local and transit transportation planning activities throughout the region. No specific federal funding through MORPC is provided for these activities.

Resolution T-8-25 accepts the attached MORPC Planning Work Program for SFY 2026 as a document to receive federal and state planning funds.

Attachment: Resolution T-8-25

#### **RESOLUTION T-8-25**

#### "Acceptance of the MORPC Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program"

WHEREAS, surface transportation systems serve economic activities and provide the necessary and highly valued opportunity for people to travel freely wherever and whenever they choose; and

WHEREAS, travel in Central Ohio involves frequent crossings of municipal, township, and county boundaries on facilities that are under the control of various local jurisdictions, special-purpose agencies, and the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, transportation systems that function best and are most cost-effective include regular cooperative and coordinated planning and decision-making across geographic and administrative boundaries; and

WHREAS, the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan includes facilitating multi-jurisdictional dialogue as a strategy to provide for collaboration in order to maintain and improve the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, it is the role of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to encourage, facilitate and provide a forum for this cooperation so as to help spend regional transportation funds most effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Work Program (PWP) is the document that outlines the work of the MPO, the use of regional transportation planning funds, and the regional planning activities that will be undertaken in the coming year; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Ohio Department of Transportation have reviewed the MORPC Fiscal Year 2026 PWP (summary attached); and

WHEREAS, approval of this work program by the Transportation Policy Committee is necessary for MORPC to receive federal and state grants to accomplish the scope of work within it; and

WHEREAS, basic requirements for the PWP are included in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 450.308; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 28, 2025, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 30, 2025, recommended acceptance of this work program by the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

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

Section 1. That it hereby accepts the attached MORPC Planning Work Program for Fiscal Year 2026 in order for MORPC to receive federal and state planning funds.

Resolution T-8-25 Page 2 of 2

- Section 2. That staff is authorized to make such changes to the work element as are needed to satisfy clarifying comments from the Ohio Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation, but which do not change the intent of the activity.
- Section 3. That staff is authorized to make such changes to the work element budgets as needed to reflect final carryover budgets from FY 2025 into FY 2026, including modest shifting among work element budgets.
- Section 4. That this resolution be forwarded to ODOT as evidence of acceptance of this program by the Transportation Policy Committee.
- Section 5. That this committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

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

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff

Attachment: Summary of FY 2026 PWP

## Summary FISCAL YEAR 2026 MORPC PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Notes on Listing: The total budget of all work elements (including funds spent prior to SFY 2026) is **\$13,963,060**. The amount estimated to remain to be expended in 2026 or subsequent years is **\$13,235,439**.

# I. Formula Funded Planning Program Activities

Total Budget: \$4,087,377

## **Work Elements**

## 60126-3000 - Management & Operations Planning

## Budget: \$262,500

Managing and maintaining the extensive existing transportation system is a priority of transportation agencies. This work element coordinates on the benefits of a holistically managed transportation system. Helping members collaborate on M&O, advancing ITS including connected infrastructure and CV/AV, access management, estimating costs to maintain the condition of the transportation system including pavement management and deficient bridges, etc., and incorporating security and emergency response into the planning process. Monitoring freight rail activities and analyzing for developing trends; meeting one-on-one with communities that are impacted by the movement of freight; and providing timely information via the web. Monitoring goods movement-related legislation and other regional freight initiatives.

## **Products/Activities:**

- · Condition report of highway system and resources
- Access Management
- Maintain Regional ITS Architecture
- · Participation and education on freight initiatives
- Transportation security assistance

## 60136-3000 - Safety Planning

#### Budget: \$145,000

Safety continues to be a significant focus for FHWA, ODOT, and the entire Central Ohio region. This activity works to gather crash data, conduct crash data analyses, monitor and share best practices, participate in and report on state and local safety meetings, encourage and support local governments to apply for funding to implement safety countermeasures, conduct pre- and post-crash data analysis for safety projects to evaluate the benefits of each countermeasure, and implements the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Regional Safety Analysis
- Member Assistance and Education
- Safety Committee Participation
- Special projects and studies

## 60156-3000 - Transit and Human Services Planning

## Budget: \$125,000

Coordination, assistance, and oversight to improve transit service and workforce mobility. Work includes integration of all aspects of transit and mobility to provide access to all populations while improving the range of options for meeting diverse mobility needs.

- Public transit provider coordination
- Transit Service planning assistance
- Monitor agreements and funding in the region
- Workforce Mobility Assistance

## 60206-3000 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Implementation

Budget: \$365,000

The complete streets component of this work element is estimated to cost \$65,000 which exceeds the IIJA requirement of 2.5% of PL funds to be used for complete streets. Planning for complete streets and safe and accessible travel for bikes and pedestrians is also completed in work elements 61015-3000 and 61035-1000.

The TIP is one of the two required items to allow for the flow of federal and state transportation funds into the region. This activity includes the development, update and revisions of the TIP, monitoring of federally funded projects, coordination of federally funded infrastructure projects with projects funded from other sources, allocation of STBG, CMAQ, CRP, and TAP funding, the TRAC process, environmental studies and engineering source document review including complete street implementation, innovative financing, and financing education. Specific activities for the year are listed below.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Maintain the SFY 26-29 TIP
- Prioritized list of regional projects for TRAC
- Complete Streets Policy and Implementation
- · Collaboration on innovative project delivery and financing options for projects
- Reports on the status of federally funded projects & annual obligation report
- Update the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funding and Solicit Applications for Funding

## 60516-2000 - Manage, Map, Collect, and Share Data

#### Budget: \$520,000

This element pertains to MORPC's role as a leader in coordinating data providers throughout the region, as well as managing its own internal data and GIS systems. It includes using technology for collecting, maintaining and sharing data sets that support transportation programs. It includes keeping data sets current and organized, and managing and monitoring the GIS system. In addition, it includes advancing collaboration among local data providers to reduce redundancies and improve efficiencies associated with information management.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Increase efficiencies of internal data systems
- Update and maintain data sets to support transportation planning efforts
- · Promote data sharing among data providers to reduce redundancy
- Coordinate with U.S. Census
- Collection and maintenance of mobility data sets

## 60526-2000 - Data Analytics and Research for Transportation Projects and Programs

#### Budget: \$525,000

Many transportation programs and projects require GIS and database analytical methods. This element includes using information and tools to develop and prepare final products associated with the various projects and programs of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. In addition, MORPC functions as a regional resource for requests for information regarding transportation, demographic, development, and various other community needs. This element includes aspects of research associated with fulfilling those requests.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Provide GIS and technical assistance to transportation programs
- · Prepare annual estimates of population and employment at the county and sub-county levels
- · Transform raw data into useful information, suggest insights, and support decision making
- Update the Transportation Plan Report Card
- Respond to and document requests

## 60556-3000 - Transportation Systems Analysis Techniques and Applications

#### Budget: \$500,000

Building upon transportation data, this activity maintains, updates and refines the regional transportation models and continues to refine and implement the Congestion Management Process (CMP) procedures in the 3C planning process, including monitoring congestion, impact analyses, TIP and Transportation Plan air quality conformity, SIP revisions, and CMAQ justifications. Participation in other regional congestion management and air quality initiatives.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Update travel demand model
- Up-to-date data sets for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development and air quality conformity
- Update Congestion Management Process (CMP) and other impact analyses procedures
- · Determination of the emissions changes from proposed CMAQ projects
- Land Use Model maintenance
- Modeling assistance to ODOT staff in the certified design traffic development

## 61016-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning

#### Budget: \$415,000

The Long-Range Transportation Plan is the major requirement of the MPO, including coordinating all Transportation Plan-related activities. This includes any follow-up to the completed 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan such as performance monitoring and amendments as necessary. This activity is also to coordinate with state and local agencies on transportation studies and plans. Specific activities this year are listed below.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- 2024-2050 MTP Maintenance
- Active Transportation Planning
- Coordination with ODOT Planning Activities
- Intercity Transportation Service Planning
- Functional Class, National Highway System, and Thoroughfare Planning
- Long-Range System Studies

## 61026-0400 - Transportation Public Involvement

Budget: \$165,000

Public involvement and outreach are vital components of the transportation planning process. These activities maintain the public involvement process for transportation consistent with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), federal regulations, and local needs. Efforts continue to seek the involvement of low-income and minority populations, handicapped, and elderly in the transportation planning process, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Active Transportation Plan, FTA's Section 5310, FTA's Section 5307, and other transportation-related studies. The Public Participation Plan supports the activities of the Community Advisory Committee and provides updates on transportation planning activities through in-person and virtual presentations, the web, electronic newsletters, social media, and other public involvement and outreach activities.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Transportation Public Involvement Process
- Public Involvement Activities for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Public Involvement Activities for the Transportation Improvement Program
- Public Involvement Activities for the Active Transportation Plan
- Public Involvement for Miscellaneous Transportation Activities

## 61036-1000 - Regional Strategic Initiatives

## Budget: \$425,000

Transportation is interrelated with land use, housing, air quality, energy, environmental sustainability, and quality of life. This work element is to ensure MORPC is leading the region in studying, identifying, and communicating best practices, as well as developing plans, tools, and programming to address these issues and advance regional goals in these areas. This work element includes connecting people to green space and our natural resources.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Regional Growth Planning
- Planning for Housing
- Regional Trail Planning
- Central Ohio Greenways Vision Planning and Implementation
- River Corridor Development Planning

# 62516-1000 - Planning Coordination and Support

## Budget: \$210,000

Coordination of transportation planning efforts among different jurisdictions is a critical element to ensuring regional consistency in the transportation network. This activity includes informational sharing meetings among MORPC and others, regional collaboration meetings, and educational transportation workshops and forums. MORPC staff also provides support to individual communities with integrating regional initiatives into local land use and transportation plans and provides education around advancing active transportation.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Informational Meetings
- Regional Collaboration Group Meetings
- Member Education
- Cross-jurisdictional Planning Assistance
- Active Transportation Education and Outreach

# 62526-1000 - Member Assistance and Support

Budget: \$277,500

This work element provides member support around how to plan and manage future growth in Central Ohio. As Central Ohio is expected to become a region of 3.15 million people by 2050, MORPC is well positioned to identify innovative ways on assisting its local government members with best practices, tools, and services to make bold changes to their comprehensive plans, zoning codes, and development standards in order to create neighborhoods that provide more housing and transportation options for residents. This element builds off of work element Planning Coordination and Support, which is used to educate members on planning topics and for MORPC to continuously be aware of efforts being taken at the local level to inform the type of staff assistance needed by our members.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Member Planning Services
- Data for decision making
- Data-driven Communication

# 69716-3000 - Program Administration

## Budget: \$152,377

This work element is to facilitate the efficient administration of the transportation planning program. This work element provides for technical and policy direction of activities to fulfill ODOT, U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, FHWA, FTA, and jointly funded work as described in the Planning Work Program where such activities are not directly attributable to specific work elements.

- CAC, TAC, TPC Support and Facilitation
- Annual Planning Work Program and Completion Report
- Title VI & DBE Process
- Maintain certification and planning agreements
- · Monitor federal and state planning requirements

# **II. Special Studies**

# Total Budget: \$8,475,683

\$727,621 was spent prior to SFY 2026. The balance for SFY 2026 or later is \$7,748,062.

## **Work Elements**

## 66505-1000 - Regional Bicycling Guide (SFY 2026)

Budget: \$325,000Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end<br/>of SFY 2025.

MORPC applied for and was awarded funding through ODOT's Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation in Spring 2025. This funding will be used to develop a Central Ohio Cycling Guide, which will serve as an update to the Regional Bikeways Plan - last updated in 2016.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Biking Level of Stress Map
- 15-County Trail Map
- Safety Assessment
- Trail Town Story Map
- Engagement

## 66506-3000 - US-23 Active Transportation Study (SFY 2026)

Budget: \$136,400Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end<br/>of SFY 2025.

MORPC applied for and was awarded funding through ODOT's Special Active Transportation Funding Solicitation in Spring 2025. 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.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Plan Development
- Stakeholder & Public Engagement

## 66515-3000 - Prioritization Process Pilot Program (SFY 2026)

**Budget:** \$1,400,000 Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end of SFY 2025.

This activity will conduct a comprehensive review and revision of MORPC's project prioritization and selection process for inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The purpose of this activity is to create a publicly transparent project prioritization process which emphasizes safety and equity when selecting projects.

- · Comprehensive Review of Current MTP Goals, Objectives, and Prioritization Process
- · Revise Existing Evaluation Criteria to Best Reflect the Goals of the MTP
- Develop Improved Process for Public Involvement in Project Prioritization
- Develop Network Safety Analysis and Improved Safety Evaluation Tool
- Update MORPC Impact Analyses
- Develop Online Project Database

## 66534-3000 - Growth and Major Economic Development Planning (SFY 2026)

Budget: \$1,000,000Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end<br/>of SFY 2025.<br/>Budget breakdown is approximately \$875,000 for consultant services and<br/>\$125,000 of staff services. Work to be spread out over state fiscal years<br/>2024, 2025, and 2026.

This work element focuses on conducting regional coordination of long-range transportation planning which includes consideration of access, infrastructure, land use, and housing. The outcomes are intended to address medium term needs, long-term investment planning and comprehensively align various local and regional efforts of the Central Ohio Region for the Intel investment and subsequent growth.

MORPC will coordinate with the State of Ohio, LCATS, and other regional stakeholders (including but not limited to Foundations, TIDs, Counties, Municipalities and Townships) to address the needs of the region and prepare for growth demands associated with the Intel investment. The coordination approach will be transect- based with a focal point being the Silicon Heartland Site in New Albany. The primary focus will start with geographies that are within the 40-minutes travel of the site.

## Products/Activities:

- Agency Coordination Plan
- Enhanced data and travel demand model coverage
- Updated local planning documents
- Funding Opportunities
- List of Improvement Concepts

## 66566-3000 - Regional Supplemental Planning

Budget: \$475,000 100% STBG using toll credit

This work element supplements the formula-funded program and includes research and planning efforts that are required to fulfill MPO planning and project implementation responsibilities. The activity includes elements that supplement project delivery, data collection and data management, passenger rail planning, long-range studies and sustainability. Specific activities this year are listed below.

#### Products/Activities:

- Regular reports to members and MORPC committees on project delivery
- Traffic counts for approximately 200 locations, including bike and pedestrian counts as identified in active transportation count plan
- Implement projects to address the goals, objectives, and action items detailed in the Regional Data Agenda.
- Provide special services and conduct special transportation studies
- Support for passenger rail planning
- Resiliency Planning
- Coordination with other regional activities, such as the Regional Sustainability Agenda to further the 2024-2050 MTP goals
- Leaders Listen Survey

# 66576-1000 - Technical Assistance Program

Budget: \$300,000

100% STBG using toll credit

The purpose of this work element is to provide technical planning assistance to support individual communities in their efforts to implement the strategies identified in the MTP. Services will be provided for specific community planning and development projects related to active transportation, trails, transportation safety, and land use planning. Part of this work element is to maintain online references, tools, policies, and expertise developed under this PWP work element.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Planning Assistance
- Consultant Services

## 66584-3000 - Safe Streets For All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities (SFY 2026)

**Budget:** \$3,940,000 Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end of SFY 2025.

In 2023, MORPC applied to USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program for safety planning funds. In December 2023, MORPC received notification of the award. These funds will be used to update the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan and conduct supplemental planning activities that address key action items from the 2019 plan.

In 2024, MORPC, in partnership with The Ohio State University, applied again to SS4A and was awarded funding for a separate initiative -- the Crash Analytics and Injury Research project. The activity is intended to uncover valuable insights into the causes, patterns, and contributing factors in fatal and serious injury crashes in Central Ohio.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Safety Plan Update
- Non-Motorized Volume Data Program
- Complete Streets Safety Audit Program
- · Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Projects
- Crash Analytics and Injury Research

## 67415-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient 2025 (SFY 2026)

Budget: \$173,250Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end<br/>of SFY 2025.

This work element is to carry out the responsibility and authority for the administration of the FTA Section 5310 Program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities for each federal fiscal year apportionment for the Columbus urbanized area. The program will follow FTA policy and program guidance in the selection of projects and apply for FTA funding using the designated FTA electronic grant management system on behalf of eligible recipients.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Update, Maintain, and Implement a Program Management Plan (PMP) according to FTA provisions
- Comply with other FTA requirements
- Program of Projects
- Update and Maintain the Coordinated Plan

## 67416-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient 2026

#### Budget: \$176,033

This work element is to carry out the responsibility and authority for the administration of the FTA Section 5310 Program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities for each federal fiscal year apportionment for the Columbus urbanized area. The program will follow FTA policy and program guidance in the selection of projects and apply for FTA funding using the designated FTA electronic grant management system on behalf of eligible recipients.

## **Products/Activities:**

- Update, Maintain, and Implement a Program Management Plan (PMP) according to FTA provisions
- Comply with other FTA requirements
- Program of Projects
- Update and Maintain the Coordinated Plan

## 67424-3000 - Mobility Management 2024 (SFY 2026)

Budget: \$150,000	Activity was previously authorized. Budget estimated to remain at the end
\$140,000 remaining	of SFY 2025.

This work element will support mobility management coordinating programs among public, private and human service transportation providers that serve older adults, people with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes as well as mobility management activities in Franklin County. Mobility management will focus on increasing access to service by increasing awareness, coordinating services and addressing barriers to achieve a more efficient transportation system. MORPC maintains the locally developed Coordinated Plan for the MPO and administers the FTA's Section 5310 funding for the Columbus urbanized area. MORPC is the host for the Franklin County Mobility Manager.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Engagement
- Increase capacity
- Information coordination
- · State and local coordination
- · Awareness and accessibility

## 67426-3000 - Mobility Management 2026

#### Budget: \$200,000

This work element will support mobility management coordinating programs among public, private and human service transportation providers that serve older adults, people with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. Mobility management will focus on increasing access to service by increasing awareness, coordinating services and addressing barriers to achieve a more efficient transportation system. MORPC maintains the locally developed Coordinated Plan for the MPO and administers the FTA's Section 5310 funding for the Columbus urbanized area.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Engagement
- Increase capacity
- Information coordination
- State and local coordination
- Awareness and accessibility

## 67436-3000 - Regional Mobility Plan 2026

#### Budget: \$200,000

This work element will support mobility management coordinating programs among public, private and human service transportation providers that serve older adults, people with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. Mobility management will focus on increasing access to service by increasing awareness, coordinating services and addressing barriers to achieve a more efficient transportation system. MORPC maintains the locally developed Coordinated Plan (Regional Mobility Plan) for the MPO and administers the FTA's Section 5310 funding for the Columbus urbanized area. This element specifically refers to the regional work of the Regional Mobility Plan and the activities necessary for the rewrite.

- Rewrite the Regional Mobility Plan
- Increase Awareness
- Increase Capacity and Support Implementation of RMP

# Total Budget: \$1,400,000

## **Work Elements**

## 66716-3000 - Transportation Services (Ridesharing)

Budget: \$800,000 100% MORPC CMAQ

Promote Travel Demand Reduction (TDM) in Central Ohio and market programs and service in a 15-county area. Program services include carpool matching, vanpool formation, transit, bike and pedestrian support and strategies for employers and the general public. MORPC administers an emergency ride home program, vanpool program, and a statewide rideshare matching vendor contract in coordination with OARC rideshare agencies.

#### **Products/Activities:**

- Promote multimodal travel throughout Central Ohio with public education and ride matching services
- Raise public awareness about mobility options in the region. Increase ridesharing and TDM acceptance to improve air quality.
- National Transit Database Reporting
- Program evaluation, TDM Strategic plan, and TDM Hub
- Promote TDM services to reduce SOV travel and associated air pollution in communities near highvolume corridors as well as in underserved communities

## 66736-1000 - Air Quality Awareness

Budget: \$600,000 MORPC CMAQ (100% using toll credit)

This work element ensures that MORPC continues air pollution forecasting and educating its members and the public on the importance of air quality, its health and environmental impacts, and how to reduce air pollution. Furthermore, MORPC provides technical and planning assistance to the region on strategies to reduce fuel use and reduce emissions and energy use.

- Air Quality Alerts and Coordination
- Air Quality Research
- Education and Outreach
- · Conduct special studies and projects that reduce air pollution
- · Planning and policy assistance

## Total Budget: \$0

## Work Elements

## 66505-3000 - Ongoing Local Planning

Other agencies also undertake transportation planning activities. This activity includes identifying local planning efforts and coordinating with them through other projects. There is no budget for this work element.

This activity is provided only for informational purposes and has no final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff may be involved through the related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.

## Products/Activities:

Integrate local planning efforts into MORPC's regional transportation planning processes

## 67401-3000 - Ongoing COTA Activities

This work element is for coordination with COTA to ensure adherence to federal and state requirements and for the facilitation of effective transit services in the COTA service area, mainly in Franklin County and in portions of adjacent counties. There is no budget for this work element.

This activity is provided only for informational purposes and has no final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff may be involved through the related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.

## Products/Activities:

- COTA's planning process
- Continued refinement of COTA's Long-Range Plan and other planning activities
- Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) maintenance and coordination
- Service change planning
- · COTA safety and asset management plans
- · Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant
- FY 2023 TOD Pilot Program

## 67402-3000 - Ongoing DCT Activities

This work element is for coordination with DCT to ensure adherence to federal and state requirements and for the facilitation of effective transit services in Delaware County. There is no budget for this work element.

This activity is provided only for informational purposes and has no final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff may be involved through the related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.

- DCT's planning process and requirements needed to receive federal urban area and state funds
- Implement recommendations from DCT's Strategic Plan
- DCT safety and asset management plans
- Workforce Transportation Study



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## Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee Transportation Advisory Committee Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

**DATE:** April 23, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Resolution T-9-25: "Certification of the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process"

In urbanized areas, which have a population of 50,000 or more, federal planning law (49 U.S.C. 5303) calls upon local officials to cooperate with states and public transportation providers in undertaking a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) multimodal transportation planning process. This metropolitan transportation planning process is carried out through MORPC as a federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO).

Every four years, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that each MPO serving a transportation management area (TMA), a designation by DOT of an urbanized area with a population over 200,000 as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is carrying out the metropolitan planning process in adherence with federal statutes and regulations. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) last conducted this review, on the Secretary's behalf, at MORPC in 2022 and will conduct another recertification review of MORPC in September 2026.

However, federal regulations also specify that the state and MPO must annually self-certify to FHWA and FTA that the planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Resolution T-9-25 self-certifies MORPC's metropolitan transportation planning process and affirms that MORPC, as an MPO, is meeting all requirements in its transportation planning work.

Attachment: Resolution T-9-25

William Murdock, AICP Executive Director Chris Amorose Groomes Chair Michelle Crandall Vice Chair Ben Kessler Secretary

## **RESOLUTION T-9-25**

## "Certification of the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process"

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 450.334 requires that the state and MPO certify, at least every four years, that the transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements, including:

- 1) 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303 (Metropolitan Transportation Planning requirements);
- 2) Sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as Amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d) and 40 CFR part 93;
- 3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
- 4) 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age in employment or business opportunity;
- 5) Section 11101(e) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and 49 CFR part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in USDOT-funded projects;
- 6) 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of the equal employment opportunity program on federal and federal-aid highway construction contracts;
- 7) The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR parts 27, 37 and 38;
- 8) The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101) prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
- 9) Section 324 of Title 23 U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
- 10) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this "self-certification" is separate from the MPO certification done by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, which was last conducted at MORPC in 2022 and will be conducted again in 2026; and

WHEREAS, as a prerequisite to the receipt of federal financial assistance (per 49 CFR Subtitle A, Section 21.7), MORPC is required to provide the Title VI Assurances included in Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 28, 2025 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 30, 2025 recommended approval of this resolution by the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That it certifies that the urban transportation planning process is carried out in conformance with all the applicable federal requirements to the degree that is appropriate for the size and complexity of the area.
- Section 2. That it provides the Title VI Assurances in Attachment A, Parts 1 and 2.

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Section 3. That this committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff

Attachments:

A. Part 1 – Standard DOT Title VI Assurances Part 2 – Contractor Contractual Requirements

#### PART 1 STANDARD DOT TITLE VI ASSURANCES

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) hereby agrees that as a condition to receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation (DOT), it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d <u>et seq.</u>) and all requirements imposed by 49 CFR Part 21 - Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation - Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations") to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which MORPC receives Federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. Without limiting the above general assurance, MORPC agrees that:

- 1. Each "program" and "facility" (as defined in Sections 21.23(e) and 21.23 (b)) will be conducted or operated in compliance with all requirements of the Regulations.
- 2. It will insert the clauses of Part 2 of this assurance in every contract subject to the Act and the Regulations.
- 3. This assurance obligates MORPC for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended to the program, except where the Federal financial assistance is to provide, or is in the form of personal property or real property or interest therein or structures or improvements thereon, in which case the assurance obligates MORPC or any transferee for the longer of the following periods:
  - (a) the period during which the property is used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, or
  - (b) the period during which MORPC retains ownership or possession of the property.
- 4. It will provide for such methods of administration for the program as are found by the Secretary of Transportation or the official to whom they delegate specific authority to give reasonable guarantee that it, other sponsors, sub-grantees, contractors, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants or Federal financial assistance under such program will comply with all requirements imposed or pursuant to the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.
- 5. It agrees that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement with regard to any matter arising under the Act, the Regulations, and this assurance.

THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining Federal financial assistance for this Project and is binding on MORPC, its contractor, subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest and other participants in the Project. The person whose signature appears on this resolution is authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of MORPC.

#### PART 2 CONTRACTOR CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations**. The contractor shall comply with the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "DOT"), Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, as they may be amended from time to time (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations"), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

2. **Nondiscrimination**. The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender or sex (including pregnancy, gender identification or expression, and sexual orientation), age (including federally protected 40 years or older), disability or other handicap, low-income status, limited English proficiency, religion, genetic information, gender identification, creed, military status (past, present, or future), medical conditions, or marital/familial status in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by Section 49 CFR 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B to part 21 of the Regulations.

3. Solicitations for Subcontracts, including Procurements of Materials and Equipment. In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender or sex (including pregnancy, gender identification or expression, and sexual orientation), age (including federally protected 40 years or older), disability or other handicap, low-income status, limited English proficiency, religion, genetic information, gender identification, creed, military status (past, present, or future), medical conditions, or marital/familial status.

4. **Information and Reports**. The contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), or U.S. DOT to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations, orders, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, the contractor shall so certify to MORPC, ODOT or U.S. DOT, as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance**. In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, MORPC shall impose such contract sanctions as it, ODOT or the U.S. DOT may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

- a. Withholding of payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies, and/or
- b. Cancellation, termination, or suspension of the contract, in whole or in part.

6. **Incorporation of Provisions**. The contractor and subcontractor(s) shall include the provisions of paragraphs 1 through 5 in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor and subcontractor(s) shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as MORPC, ODOT or U.S. DOT may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, however, that in the event a contractor or subcontractor(s) becomes involved in, or is threatened

Attachment A

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with, litigation with a subcontractor or supplier as a result of such direction, the contractor or subcontractor(s) may request MORPC or ODOT to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of MORPC or ODOT and, in addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.