



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY ST, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215**

HYBRID MEETING

May 17, 2023, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

AGENDA

1. Welcome

2. MORPC Update – MORPC Staff

- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan**
Melinda Vonstein provided an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, highlighting the regional transportation strategies and projects for the next 20+ years. The plan is guided by six goals and includes a timeline for the 2024 update. Melinda encouraged Board Members to provide thoughts and suggestions on prioritizing the vision network and the MTP.
- **Bike Month**
Melinda shared an update on the upcoming Bike to Work Day event organized by MORPC on May 19, 2023. Participants can register online and join one of the six different rides across Columbus, which will culminate in a central celebration downtown.
- **Legislative Update**
Kyle Probert provided legislative updates, including the transportation budget passing with increased funding for regional transportation planning organizations like CORPO, and the introduction of House Bill 64, which would create a ban on recreational trail development using eminent domain. Kyle mentioned MORPC's plans to testify in opposition to the bill. Members Schamp and Oberg suggested that MORPC create outreach materials to educate constituents about the bill's potential impacts and encourage public input.
- **Central Ohio Blueways**
Jonathan Miller provided an update on the Central Ohio Blueways program, discussing the feedback from the Advisory Panel and the main categories of concerns, including maintenance and operations, usage and experience, environment and water quality, and procedural perspectives. The May 10 meeting focused on these categories in breakout groups to dive deeper into the issues.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Grooms
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Mike Borger provided an update on CORPO dedicated funding, mentioning that the funding has increased and that active transportation projects can be applicants for this funding. He encouraged Board Members to consider applying for funding for their projects.

- **RAPID 5**

Melinda shared an update on the RAPID 5 project, highlighting the achievements under Dr. Amy Acton's leadership, including raising \$3 million in startup funding and becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. RAPID 5 is now entering its next phase, focusing on strategic and operational planning with the Board of Directors.

- **LinkUS**

Melinda provided an update on the LinkUS initiative, mentioning the expected approval of the TSI resolution in June by the MORPC Commission and in July by the COTA Board. The East Main Street design is out for bid, and the Downtown Multimodal Transit Study will hold public meetings this summer.

- **Riverfest**

Melinda announced that MORPC will be hosting Riverfest again this year in coordination with the Columbus Arts Festival on June 10 and 11. The event will feature free kayaking, paddleboarding, and canoeing for everyone at the Scioto River downtown.

- **Summit on Sustainability**

Melinda shared that the Summit on Sustainability is scheduled for October 26 at the Hilton Downtown. Nominations for the 2023 Regional Sustainability Awards are now open, and she encouraged Board Members to consider nominating colleagues for the awards.

- **Sustainability Grants Updates**

3. COG Strategic Plan Update

Melinda presented draft updates to the Central Ohio Greenways Strategic Plan, summarizing the themes discussed during the recent Board Retreat and identifying new action items within four categories: collaboration, messaging, resources/guidelines, and program management. She proposed reducing the number of tasks from 54 to 26 and suggested approving the draft tasks at the next Board meeting.

4. Working Group Reports

a. Trail Development and Partnership

- **Regional Collaboration Meetings –**

Melinda discussed plans to set up regional collaboration meetings in different quadrants of Central Ohio to discuss trail projects. She encouraged Board Members to help co-host these meetings and suggested expanding the COG Vision to the full 15-county region.

- **Natural Asset Mapping**

- **SS4A Grant Discussion**

b. Marketing & Communications and Operations & Access

- Outdoor Trails Pass

Jessie Sampson provided an update on the Columbus Outdoor Trail Pass, which has expanded to 42 destinations and includes new itinerary features. The pass has seen significant engagement, with 399 signups and 48 destination check-ins in April. Jessie encouraged Board Members to promote the program through their channels.

- Website

Jessie shared updates on the COG website, including the creation of new resource pages for the Columbus Outdoor Trail Pass and trail alerts and closures. He encouraged Board Members to email relevant information about trail closures and delays to keep the page up to date.

- Trail Alerts Page

- Wayfinding & Trail Town Framework

Melinda provided updates on the Wayfinding and Trail Town Framework projects, mentioning that consultants have been hired for both projects and that Steering Committee meetings will be held within the next three to four weeks.

c. Nomination Committee

Chair Andrako discussed the need to convene a Nomination Committee to review membership and identify gaps for the 2024 Board nominations. He encouraged Board Members to volunteer for the Committee.

5. Adjourn

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

The next Central Ohio Greenways Board Meeting will be July 19, 2023.

