



111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 Columbus, Ohio 43215 morpc.org T. 614. 228.2663 TTY. 1.800.750.0750 info@morpc.org

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 Groomes** *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 Ikaufman@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.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Hybrid Meeting

Central Ohio Greenways Board

May 17, 2023

Members Present

- Chair Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Kacey Brankamp, Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District
- Judy Dzuranin, Ohio to Erie Trail
- Bertie Fields, Black Girls Do Bike
- Beth Hugh, Korda Nemeth Engineering, Inc.
- Adrienne Joly, City of New Albany
- Tamisha Matus, Union County Health Department
- Eric Oberg, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Andrew Overbeck, MKSK
- Tobi Otulana, Toole Design Group
- J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin
- Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
- Wayne Roberts, Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails
- Scott Ulrich, City of Columbus
- Brad Westall, City of Columbus

Staff Present

- Mike Borger
- Lauren Cardoni
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jonathan Miller
- Jennifer Noll
- Kyle Probert
- Jessie Sampson
- Shubh Thakkar
- Melinda Vonstein



Central Ohio Greenways Board Meeting

May 17, 2023



MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

2024 - 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Maria Schaper, MORPC



MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION



WHAT IS THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)?

- Identifies regional transportation strategies and projects
- Long-range (20+ years)
- Fiscally constrained
- Formal document submitted to ODOT and USDOT every 4 years

2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN



WHY IS THE MTP IMPORTANT?

- Central Ohio is growing
 - Demographics are changing
 - Development is changing
 - Demands on the transportation system are changing
- Transportation projects must be on MTP to be eligible for federal funding
 - Formula & Discretionary (BIL)
 - Guides the work of MORPC and regional and local planning partners

2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN



By guiding investment in transportation and mobility infrastructure and services in Central Ohio, the MTP identifies strategies to advance the following six goals:



Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve all residents' quality of life.



Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.

Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.



Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.



Provide transportation and mobility options to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of all people.



Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.

2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN



2022

 Review, update, adopt Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures

 Develop and adopt 2050 population and employment growth projections 2023

- Compile candidate strategies and projects
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Interactive webmap
- Strategy and project evaluation
- Fiscal Analysis

Public Participation

• Draft strategies and projects

2024

• Impact Analyses

- Full draft document
- Public comment period
- <u>May</u>: MTP Adoption



GET INVOLVED

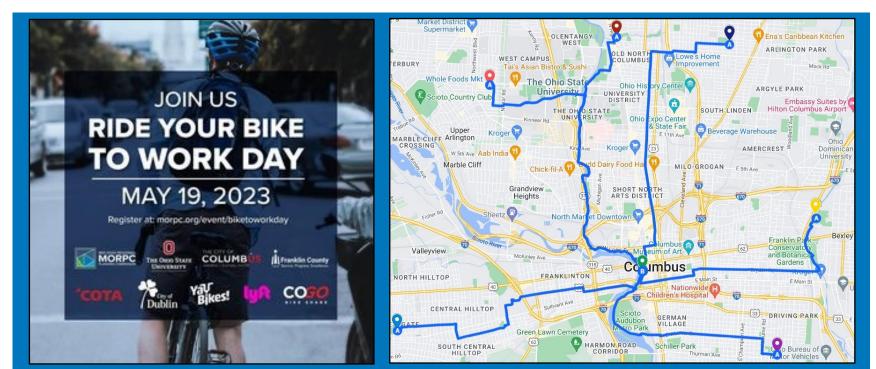
- Review 2050 Population and Employment Forecasts
- Review and Comment on Candidate Project Webmap

CONTACT INFORMATION Maria Schaper 614.233.4153 <u>mschaper@morpc.org</u>



MORPC Bike Month Celebrations

- May is Bike Month, an exciting time for MORPC and local partners as they gear up to organize a series of thrilling events and promotional content focused on cycling and active transportation in the region.
- One of the main events organized by MORPC during Bike Month is the "Ride Your Bike to Work Day," scheduled for Friday, May 19th, which encourages people to ditch their cars and commute to work on their bicycles.
 - This year, participants choose from six distinct routes originating in various parts of the region. These routes converge at the Scioto Promenade, where a finale celebration awaits before they head into work.





CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS

COG BOARD MEETING MAY 17, 2023



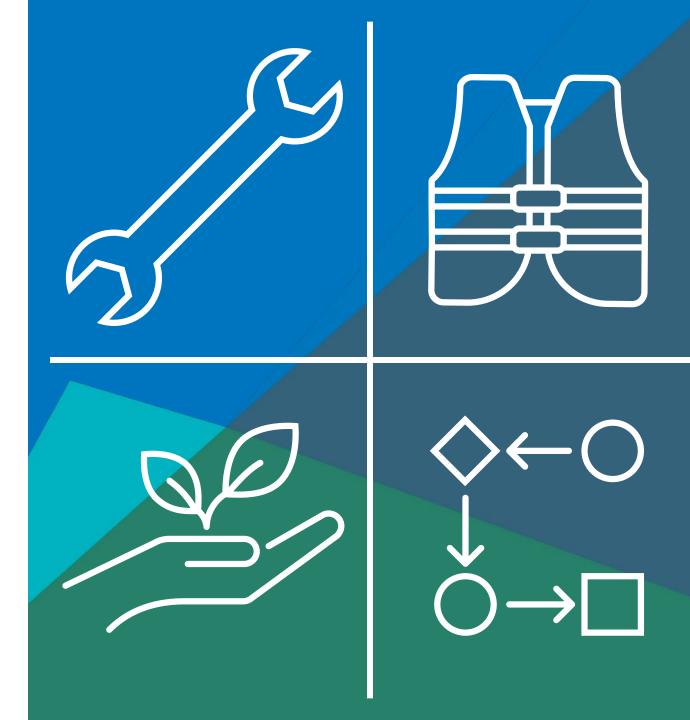
MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

ADVISORY PANEL 1:1 MEETINGS

FOUR MAIN CATEGORIES OF FEEDBACK

- MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS
 - Safety Considerations
 - Waste Management
 - Access Points
- USAGE & EXPERIENCE
 - Access Points and Accessibility
 - Signage & Branding
- ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY
 - Externalities with Increased Interest
 - General Development Issues
 - Assistance with Conservation
- PROCEDURAL ITEMS
 - Big Darby and Olentangy River North of I-270
 - Designation of Waterways Logistics
 - Educational Efforts





ADVISORY PANEL MAY 10th, 2023 MEETING

BREAKOUT GROUP SUMMARY

- MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS
 - **EMS** Response
 - Litter •
 - Access Points Considerations
- USAGE & EXPERIENCE
 - Access Points and Accessibility
 - Signage & Branding
- **ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY**
 - General Development Issues
 - Waterway Hazards
 - Assistance with Conservation



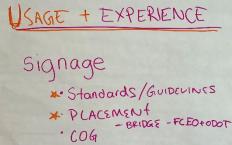
MAINTENANCE + OPERATIONS

- Litter - "who can I call?"

- criteria for removal r.g. logs/dr boys ways presidentional oversight cities is twos - Hrmy Corps?
- Sconcernation agencies can help to think the
- -Role of Water Trails: interpretive/learning imperiences (Signs) -Booking report edu on strainers
- Deritaria / process for reporting -apportunity for treh/ larger Park Districts have preedures in view cound sourcing
- capacity/necds/ differ from urber to rural
- combined source over Plas where coultion D Nead to be able to notify users (at the access plant on sight + on an app for using)
- stop maintenance we need to be part of the considerations for Barners good shape, when the for Barners good shape, when the for Georgistant branding (design bruger are have "+ other non-finding on Bridges
- EMS Response prople lost/stranded/need hely bases to gove emerginary contact info - coord Dam releases + notifications

FINVIRONMENT + WATER QUALITY

Impact riparian coordon ADA accessible parking lots im perviousness unless roll-off due dilligence in guiding design + implemention Check out TASC limited tree cutting more people > more litter - project Safe. Water Quality - e.g. e. coli who samples e.coli for Rec safety Does CRPD check reservoirs ? Containers for litters parking (in lets + outlets ? or interes - Westerville - shuttle or pedal + paddle metroparks-quided tours dams + portages



- · FUNDING FOR SIGNAGE ODNR
- Access Points
- * Design GuideLINES ADA - PLACEMENT - PARKing N MIN. SWIRDAMENTAL IMPACT - crushed STONE

ONE WATERWAY AT A TIME



START WITH: **BIG WALNUT CREEK**

THANKS!

JONATHAN MILLER, MPA, AICP, GISP

Senior Planner Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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CONTACT INFORMATION www.rapid5.org



LINKUS

•TSI resolutions to approve the structure will be approved at the June MORPC Commission and July COTA Board

•East Main Street Design is out for bid - proposals are due 6/5/2023

•Downtown Multimodal Transit Study will be holding public meetings this summer

CONTACT INFORMATION John Gardocki Transit and Mobility Manager 614.233.4146 jgardocki@morpc.org



RIVERFEST 2023

SAVE THE DATE **Riverfest 2023**



June 10-11, 2023 | Downtown Riverfront | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ACCELERATING CHANGE

Join us at the Columbus Arts Festival for Riverfest! Enjoy free kayaking, paddle boarding, and canoeing for the entire family on a first come, first served basis. Safety vests will be provided.

For more information, visit: www.morpc.org/riverfest









WHAT DO OUR WATERWAYS MEAN TO YOU?

Your words will be used to create a one-of-a-kind mural that will be displayed across the region.

Join us at the Scioto Mile during the Columbus Arts Festival on June 10 & 11 for free kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding!



REGISTER NOW Water Panel Discussion

ACCELERATING CHANGE FOR CLEAN WATER

June 3, 2023 | 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center 139 W Main St, Columbus, OH 43215



For more information, contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org

Save the Date for MORPC's annual Summit on Sustainability!

October 26, 2023 | Hilton Columbus Downtown | 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

Nominations for the 2023 Regional Sustainability Awards are now open! Nominations are due June 2, 2023.

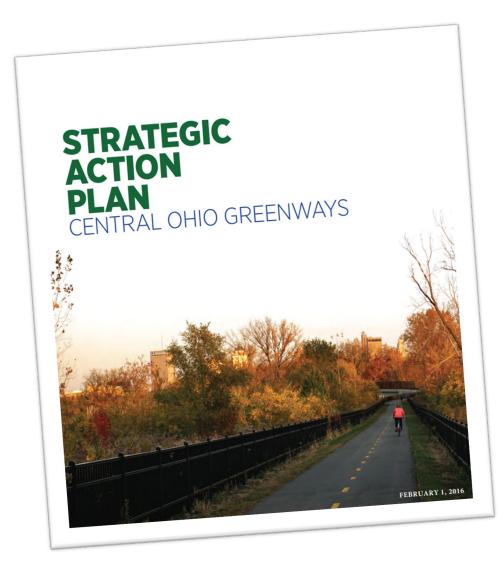
www.morpc.org/summit





https://www.surveymonkey.com /r/Messaging_MORPC







CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD MEMBER RETREAT MARCH 3, 2023



To reflect on COG accomplishments, progress, and evolution from 2015 – today; and to recommend updates to the Strategic Plan

Workshops Partnership Development Strategic Funding Trail Towns

Establish Quadrant Boundaries	\checkmark
Gather existing trail data from surrounding communities	Ongoing
Meet with quadrant stakeholders	Ongoing
Develop COG Corridor Plan	✓
Meet with quadrant stakeholders in surrounding counties	Ongoing
Review existing trail design guideline	✓
Expand COG Corridor Plan to region	✓
Prioritize trail projects	✓
Maintain COG Corridor Plan	Ongoing
Maintain trails database	Ongoing
Establish recommended trail design guidelines	✓
Connect trails with all adjacent counties	✓
Complete gaps in existing trail network	Ongoing
Regularly review trail design guidelines	Ongoing

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS SUMMARY

The trail development working group has successfully completed assigned tasks or has developed a manageable cadence for maintaining ongoing work.

WORKING GROUP NEXT STEPS

The group may continue to maintain the regional trail vision, gather data from local government partners, and further **support funding applications and strategies**.

SUPPORT WORKSHOP

The Strategic Funding Workshop





Assess value of existing system.	In progress
Identify type of support and develop sponsorship levels	×
Coordinate with Marketing Working Team	Ongoing
Identify potential partners, future resources and COG Board regional champions.	In progress
Schedule meetings with potential partners.	In progress
Identify long-term operations and capital budget	×
Secure funding	×
Develop endowment strategy	×

PARTNERSHIPS

PROGRESS SUMMARY:

Many tasks are incomplete and potentially not relevant to COG as other organizations have evolved.

WORKING GROUP NEXT STEPS

COG could continue to meet with partner agencies to Champion the COG mission and related mission. This group could benefit from a mission reset.

SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Strategic Partnership Development



Explore current programming protocols	×
Identify existing snow removal standards	Ongoing
Identify locations of programming	×
Coordinate with Marketing Working Team	Ongoing
Investigate trail business program	In progress
Inventory existing programs	×
Implement business program	In progress
Expand trail forum	Ongoing
Identify and highlight cultural destination spots	In progress
Advocate for bicycle tourism	In progress
Develop wildlife / natural programs	×
Advocate the greenways for transportation	Ongoing
Advocate for non-vehicular access to trail heads	Ongoing
Develop personal safety training	✓
Develop a review protocol for trail programming	×

PROGRAMMING

PROGRESS SUMMARY:

The Programing Working Group (later renamed and refocused, Operations & Access Working Group) has made decent progress, and is starting to pick up momentum with the wayfinding and trail towns work.

WORKING GROUP NEXT STEPS

Many of the in-progress tasks are associated with a trail towns initiative. This working group could be renamed Trail Towns Working Group.

SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Trail Towns Programming





Update brand guidelines

Create and maintain marketing material templates	Ongoing
Improve the COG website	Ongoing
Develop a social media calendar	Ongoing
Campaign annually at targeted audiences	Ongoing
Tell the story of the trails with data	In progress
Tell the story of the trails with data Create a booth and coordinate attendance at events to promote COG.	In progress Ongoing
Create a booth and coordinate attendance at events	

MARKETING

 \checkmark

PROGRESS SUMMARY

The Marketing Group has made good progress. Although Impacts of Trails reports have been completed, more could be done to communicate the benefits of trails.

WORKING GROUP NEXT STEPS

The in-progress tasks are associated with a trail towns initiative. This groups could stand alone or merge with the Programming Group. A brand refresh is possible.

SUPPORT WORKSHOP

Trail Towns Programming



COG BOARD RETREAT THEMES –

Workshops: Partnership Development Strategic Funding Trail Towns

Collaboration -

Messaging -

Resources / Guidelines

Program Operations -

• Elevate Access to a place of dignity

• Improve on road connections so people can get to more places

• No dedicated source of funding = rely on a variety of sources and partnerships

 Getting people around without a car is not about a single mode - the messaging is bigger

• Access to Trails - Not everyone knows they have it

• We don't have a dedicated source of funding, so we rely on a variety of sources and partnerships

Support Collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries

How do we engage the business community?

Need to engage with the conservation community

Staff and resources are limited

• There may be collaborative resources available through other partnerships

DRAFT: STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



Collaboration -

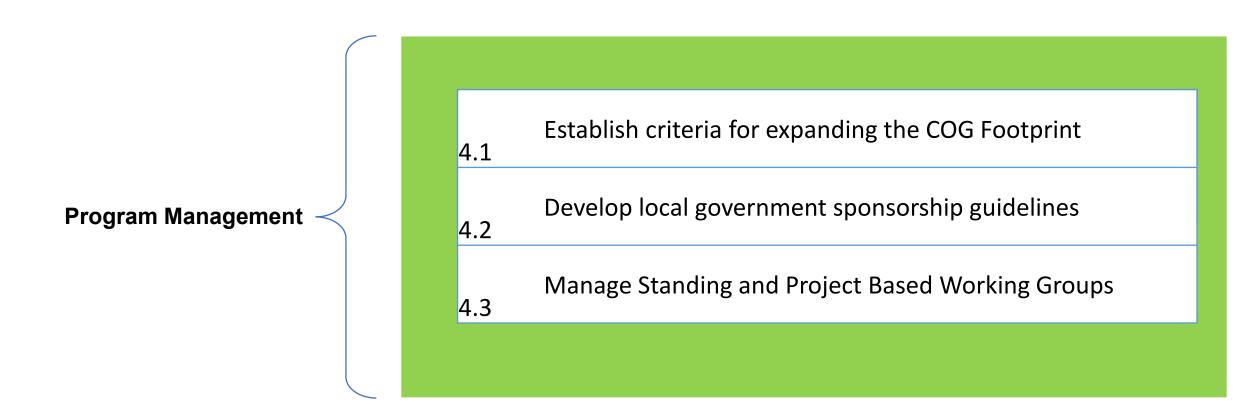
1.1	Establish a Trail Towns Working Group
1.2	Establish sub-region collaboration groups
1.3	Maintain the Regional Bikeways File and COG Vision Map
1.4	Develop Active Transportation, Outdoor Rec, and Mobility Partnerships
1.5	Advocate for Trail Funding
1.6	Engage with Statewide orgs
1.7	Develop a Climate/Environmental Action Plan





Resources / Guidelines -

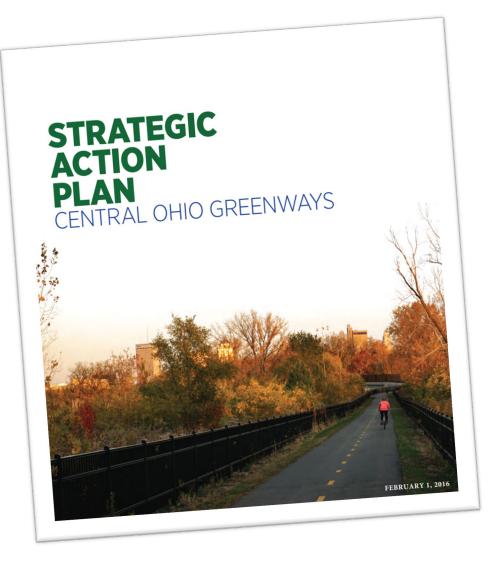
3.1	Maintain Brand Guidelines
3.2	Partnership Messaging Toolkit
3.3	Trail Safety Protocols
3.4	Trail Count Monitoring Program
3.5	Trail Design Guide
3.6	Construction / detour / alert protocols
3.7	Trail Event Protocols
3.8	Wayfinding Guidelines
3.9	Grants Narrative Toolkit
4	Offer Technical Assistance
4.1	Impact of Trails Report





COG Strategic Plan - Next Steps

- Approve Draft Strategic Plan Tasks
- Establish Working Group Responsibilities
- Management Structure of Working Groups
- Identify Sub-tasks







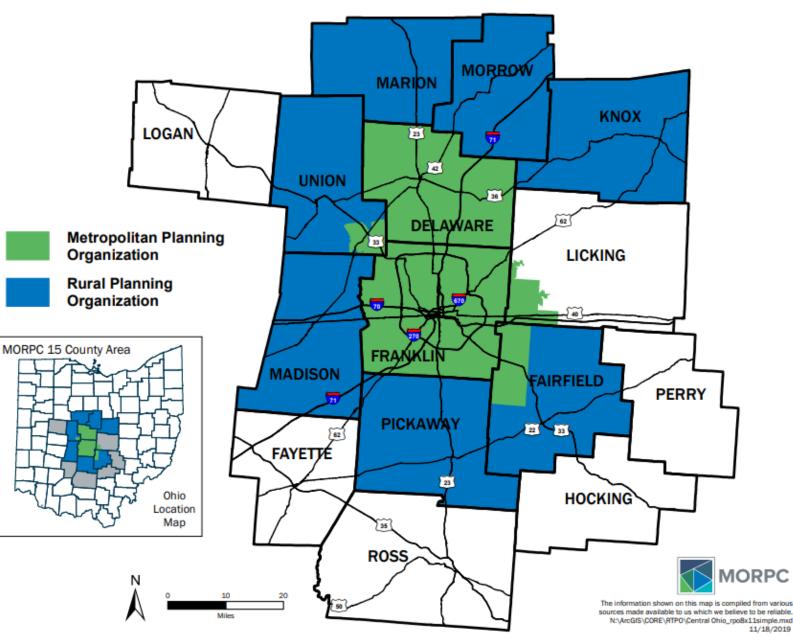
Central Ohio Greenways Trail Development Report



MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL COLLABORATION MEETINGS

- PARTNA
- Other Regional Groups
 Meetings
 - Co-Host Opportunity?
- Expand the COG Vision to the 15 County Region
 - Collaboration with CORPO



NATURAL ASSET MAPPING



SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT

Due July 10, 2024

Planning and Demonstration Grants provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribe, or region. Planning and Demonstration Grants also fund supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities that inform the development of a new or existing Action Plan. The Department encourages including demonstration activities in an application.

Action Plan: Update to the Regional Safety Plan Supplemental Action Plan: Trail / Vulnerable Roadway User Count Program Demonstration Activities : COG Access Demonstration Projects





Central Ohio Greenways Marketing & Communications / Operations Report



MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

History of the Trail Pass

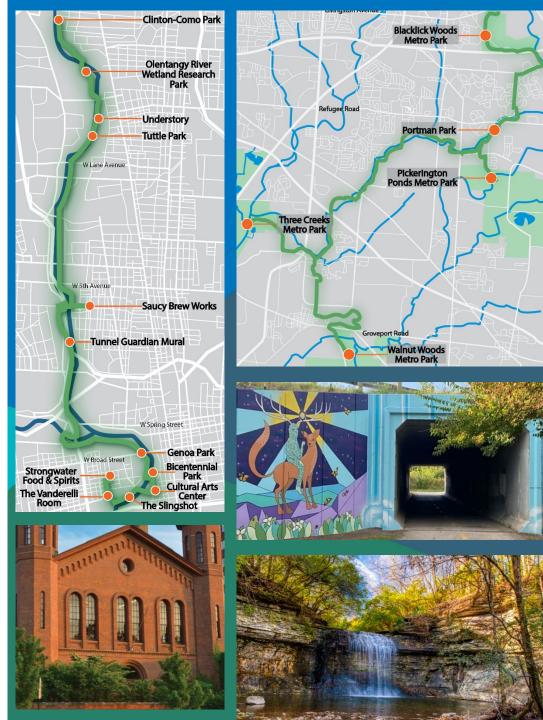
- The Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass is the product of a partnership between the Central Ohio Greenways Board and Experience Columbus; the pass seeks to encourage residents and visitors to explore the region's trails.
 - It does this by listing a variety of destinations along or adjacent to the trail network and entering trail pass users into raffles for gift cards from local business for every destination they check-in at.
- The 2022 Outdoor Trails pass included 22 total destinations comprised of 14 parks, 6 trailheads, 1 mural, and 1 food vendor representing different points of interest across the regional trail system.
- The pass relaunches every April, during the Celebrate Trails Day event, often including new destinations and features. So, we just launched the 2023 rendition of the Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass.



Updated Pass

- This year's pass was designed to expand upon COGs trail town framework by adding local businesses to the passport and increasing the total number of destinations to encompass more popular areas for cyclists within the region.
 - Expanded to 42 destinations including 24 parks, 3 outdoor art installations, 8 trailheads, 6 businesses, and 1 museum.
- This years pass also implemented an itinerary feature that takes users on curated adventures using the trail network.
 - Scenic Parks Itinerary: A 18-mile trip traveling the Blacklick Creek Trail to 4 Metro Parks and one local park.
 - Fresh Air, Fine Art, and Fantastic Brews Itinerary: A 7.5-mile trip traveling the Olentangy Trail to 5 parks, 4 businesses, 2 murals, and a museum.
- Passport's platform has been updated creating a more userfriendly and smoother interface.



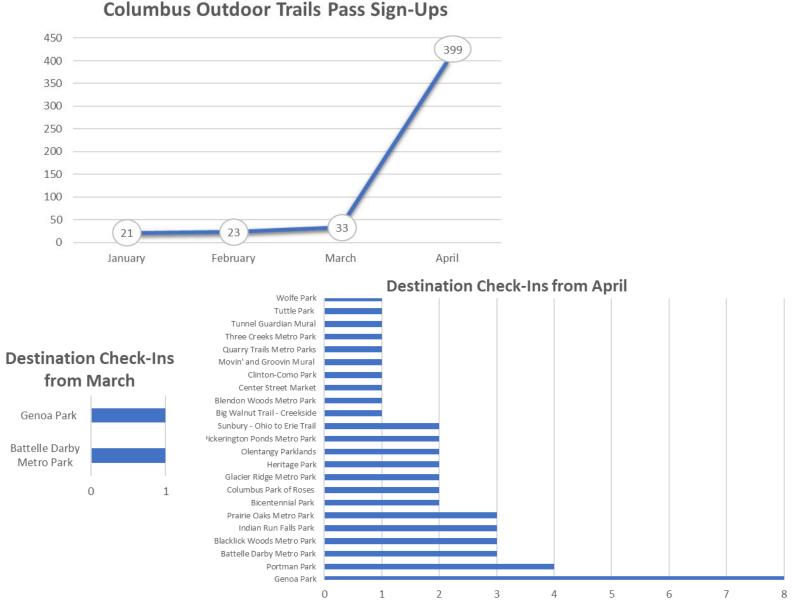


Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass Engagement



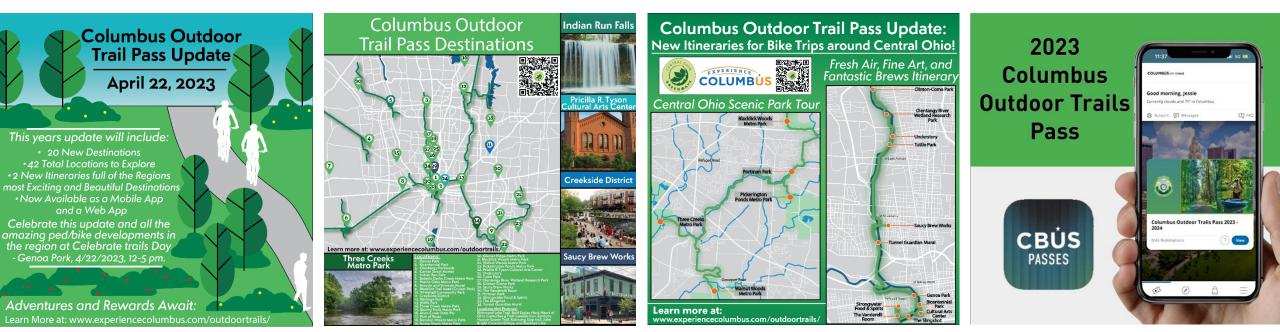
• The number of sign-ups for the Outdoor Trails Pass has grown exponentially in the first four months of 2023.

- There has also been a significant increase in destination check-ins at a wider variety of stops.
 (2 in March and 48 in April)
- Special thanks to Kari Kauffman and everyone at Experience Columbus!



Plans for the Future

- With the newly updated trail pass receiving high engagement, we plan to sustain this excitement by promoting the program through our social media and various other channels. I encourage all board members to promote the program through their own channels as well!
- We also hope to increase participation from businesses which could lead to expansion of the program and further inclusion of the ideals of the train town framework into this program.
- We are also analyzing the usage data to guide further iterations of the pass and itineraries. This includes identifying popular destinations, understanding which parts of the region are most engaged with the pass, and developing new itineraries to increase engagement in different regions.



We Have 2 New Resource Pages



Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass Resource Page

- This resource page provides general information about the Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass while also linking to the Experience Columbus page that lets you sign-up for the passport.
- This page provides information and maps of the itineraries that are unable to be provided on the passport.

Central Ohio Greenways Alerts and Closures Page

- For user convenience, this new page is prominently displayed on the website's homepage and provides information and maps for notable delays, detours, and closures along the region's trails.
- Although this page is new, our goal is for it to become the go-to resource for all trail alerts and closures in the region. We have received a lot of feedback from users on social media requesting this type of information, and we want to make sure we keep the page as up-to-date as possible. Therefore, if you have any relevant closures or delays to report, please email me with the information so that we can add it to the page.
- In the future, I'll collaborate with the marketing working group in developing a set of protocols for trail closures and delays. With the goal of enhancing the user experience and ensure seamless communication to and from our member communities about delays, closures, and detours!

THANK YOU!

Jessie Sampson

Central Ohio Greenways Intern Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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WAYFINDING 2023

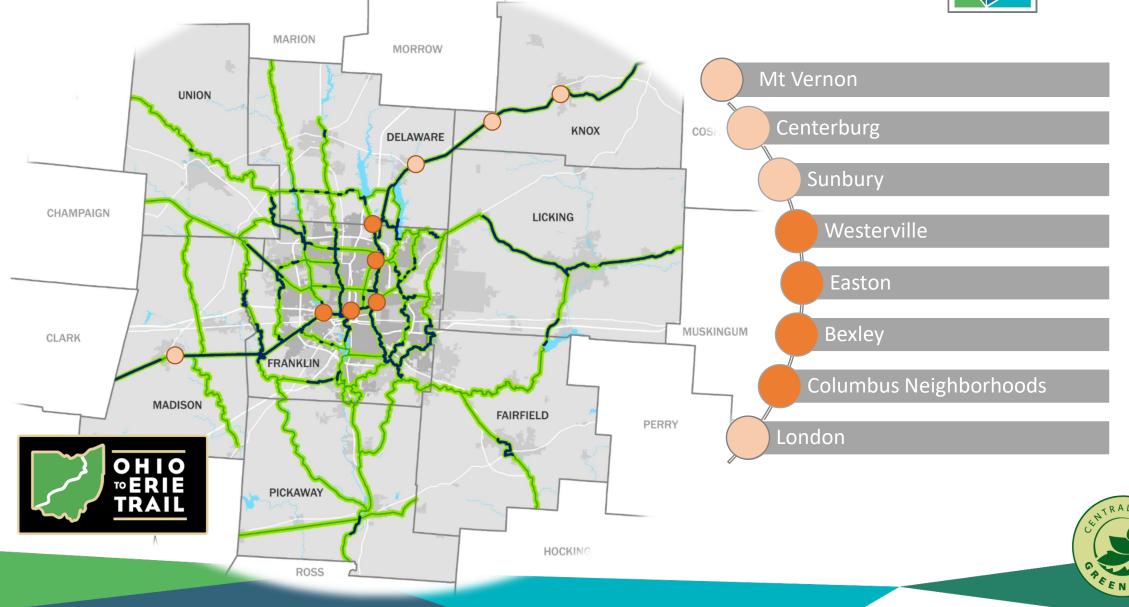
- **Inventory** destinations, signage, and amenities
- Develop a cohesive wayfinding strategy that leverages the investments already made in signage and wayfinding overtime





URBAN TRAIL TOWN FOCUS AREA





THANK YOU!

Mike Andrako, P.E. COG Board Chair Franklin County Engineer's Office mandrako@franklincountyengineer.org

Melinda Vonstein, AICP

Central Ohio Greenways Program Manager Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission mvonstein@morpc.org

