



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 Liberty Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

HYBRID MEETING

July 19, 2023, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Chair Andrako congratulated Member Westall and the City of Columbus on receiving a grant for the Linden Green Line property acquisition, which is a significant project connecting multiple communities and benefiting around 130,000 people.

Chair Andrako congratulated Member Dzurainin on the completion of the latest section of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

2. MORPC Updates

• **CORPO**

Staff reported that the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) is accepting applications for the CORPO Dedicated Funds Program, which provides \$2 million in surface transportation block grant funds for capital and planning projects. Applications are due by August 11.

• **MTP**

Staff reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and CORPO Transportation Plan (CTP) are undergoing updates to reflect data trends, recent planning activities, and project priorities. The MTP covers the Columbus Metropolitan planning area, while the CTP covers the CORPO member counties.

• **State Operating Budget**

Kyle Probert provided an update on the state operating budget, highlighting changes to distracted driving penalties, an increase in the competitive bidding threshold, and a new \$700 million strategic community investments fund.

• **Technical Assistance Program**

Jordan Petrov discussed the Technical Assistance Program, which is currently reviewing the program guide and tweaking service offerings. The next cycle of services will be launched before the end of the year, with applications opening in late July and early September.

- **Brown Township Trail Connections**
Jonathan Miller shared updates on the Brown Township project, focusing on connecting the township to nearby trails, including the Ohio to Erie Trail and Alum Creek State Park. Challenges include crossing Alum Creek Lake and State Route 3637, but opportunities exist through zoning overlays and power easements.
- **Blueways**
Jonathan also provided an update on the Central Ohio Blueways effort, discussing the management of woody debris, litter, and emergency services. The advisory panel is working on partnership agreements and engaging with communities along Big Walnut Creek.
- **Sustainability Updates**
- **LinkUS**
Chair Andrako discussed the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) funding, which will generate up to \$60 million annually for pedestrian and bike improvements near fixed transit stops. This funding will benefit various communities in Central Ohio and support the three BRT projects.

3. COG Strategic Plan

- **Action Item Interest Survey**
Melinda Vonstein shared the updated Strategic Plan action items, focusing on collaboration, messaging, resources and guidelines, and program operations.

4. Trail Heads For All Project

Mara Villaseca presented the Trailheads for All project, which aims to enhance trailheads as intermediary spaces between communities and networks, focusing on safety, connectivity, equity, and experience.

5. London Murals

Member Roberts discussed the London Murals project, which involved creating 16 murals depicting the history of the area and placing them on the Matco service building. The project has improved the experience of trail users and attracted more visitors to the area.

6. Project Updates

- **Impact of Trails**
Melinda provided an update on the Impacts of Trails report, summarizing the economic, public health, and transportation benefits of trails. The summary will be available on the website next week.
- **Trail Towns**
Melinda discussed the Trail Town project, which involves touring communities like the City of Bexley, the City of Westerville, Driving Park, Hanford Village, and Easton to explore opportunities for improved trail connectivity and community engagement.

- **Wayfinding**
Melinda shared updates on the Wayfinding project, which involves inventorying destinations and assets along the Ohio to Erie Trail and developing a wayfinding strategy. The project aims to evoke feelings of security, exploration, and inspiration among trail users.
- **Social Media**

7. Funding Opportunities Board Discussion

8. Other Business

9. Closing

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 10:00 am, September 20, 2023
This Meeting will be Hybrid; details to follow.**