



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

June 4, 2025
9:00 a.m.

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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions – Fritz Crosier, Chair**
- 9:04 a.m. Approval of April 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:05 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC**
Dave Dixon, MORPC
- 9:15 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Applications and MPO Prioritization Process – Shelby Oldroyd, MORPC
- 9:30 a.m. Informational Items**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- FTA 5310 Program Management Plan (PMP) and Transit Assest Management Plan (TAMP) – Hannah Ruscin, MORPC
- Olentangy Corridor Active Transportation Plan Updates – Jordan Petrov, MORPC
- Regional Water Study – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
- Data and Mapping Resources Overview – Dave Dixon, MORPC

9:50 a.m. Other Business

- 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
August 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **April 30, 2025**
Time: **9:00 a.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Ankrom, Katherine
Hamons, Shannon
Nimps, Ronni
Risko, Michele

Biesterveld, Andrew
Jenkins, Tiffany
Pajk, Jim
Stargell, Reynaldo

Crosier, Fritz
Moran, Alan
Peoples, Matthew
Wilfong, Gary

Guests

Elsea, Amy
Wanamaker, Gayle

Petee, Eric

Stevenson, Andrea

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag
Kuenzli, Jessica
Olmsted, Patty
Teye, Edwina

Dixon, Dave
Lewis, Elliott
Ratliff, Chuck

Graham, Thomas
Oldroyd, Shelby
Reda, Eva

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Crosier called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of April 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

- Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve the April 2, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Pajk moved; Mr. Wilfong seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC

- Ms. Schaper and Mr. Dixon informed the committee of the following:
 - The new Ohio Revised Code policy regarding public bodies and virtual meetings, stating that members joining through Teams cannot chat, speak, or turn on video, and can only vote if attending in person.
- The 2024 Air Quality End-of-Season Report was presented, highlighting a significant improvement with only three alerts issued, down from eleven the previous year. The highest day was in October due to weather conditions and drought.
 - A committee member asked why the good air quality days dropped drastically between 2009 and 2010.

- Dr. Dixon was unsure but would follow up with Mr. Diaz-Hernandez who is the lead on air quality and will report back to you.
- A committee member asked how we determine where sensors are placed.
- Mr. Dixon stated there was a steering committee where several rounds of meetings were proposed and reviewed. The project that looked at various criteria: areas of potential concern based on data that had been collected or feedback from community members, conversations with communities of where there are opportune sites (there are requirements of power and internet connectivity), a person able to maintain the sensors, and the availability of sensors. MORPC started with 19 sensors, and we now have 36.
- Ms. Kuenzli added the other key component is there needs to be people who are willing to host them. Currently, the project is limited to Franklin County, but it is our hope we'll be able to expand with additional funding and resources to provide a more regional perspective when it comes to air quality.
- Access Ohio 2050, ODOT's long-range transportation plan, upcoming stakeholder / public open house meetings were announced. Both meetings will be held May 12, 2025, at MORPC.
- The Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) program approved \$90.8 million in new funding for two projects in the MPO region. Applications for the next round of funding opens May 1, 2025.
- Registration for The Transportation Innovation Forum at Vitria on the Square on June 4, 2025, is now open. The forum will feature national speakers and engaging programs.

IV. Funding Programs

- Mr. Graham provided a status update on the Attributable Funds Project for state fiscal year 2025, noting that some commitments are still outstanding and MORPC is currently investigating efficient ways to spend the large project balances that will be carried into state fiscal year 2026.
- Resolution T-6-25 Adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Mr. Graham presented the proposed Resolution T-6-25 to adopt the state fiscal year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, which includes nearly \$4.2 billion in funding for transportation improvements.
- Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Stargell moved; Mr. Peoples seconded; no one opposed; and the motion passed.
 - A committee member inquired if MORPC had heard anything regarding community seeking reimbursement on current or future projects from a federal concern related to communities that have certain types of DEI / ODI ramifications.
 - Mr. Graham stated we are actively following the guidance. Most recently we have not seen any ramifications but are determining what concerns

need to be addressed. Moving forward, we are coordinating with ODOT to ensure that we're adhering to all federal regulations as required for the expenditure of those funds.

V. Resolutions

- Resolution T-7-25 Amending the State Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Work Program
 - Ms. Schaper discussed Resolution T-7-25, which amends the 2025 Planning Work Program to include two new activities funded by the ODOT grants: the Central Ohio Cycling Guide and the US-23 Active Transportation Study.
 - Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mr Pajk moved; Mr. Biesterveld seconded; no one opposed; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-8-25 Acceptance of the MORPC Fiscal Year 2026 Planning Work Program
 - Ms. Schaper presented Resolution T-8-25 to accept the 2026 Planning Work Program, outlining the work to be done with federal and state transportation funds. The program includes core planning activities, special studies, and rideshare and air quality programs.
 - Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-8-25. Mr. Wilfong moved; Mr. Peoples seconded; no one opposed; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-9-25 Annual Certification of the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process
 - Ms. Schaper introduced Resolution T-9-25, which is a self-certification of the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process, affirming that the process is being carried out as required.
 - Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-9-25. Mr. Stargell moved; Mr. Peoples seconded; no one opposed; and the motion passed.

VI. Informational Items

- Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Program
 - Dr. Teye provided an update on the Clean Ohio Program
 - The purpose of the Clean Ohio Program is to acquire open spaces and protect riparian corridors and wetlands. Vacancies on the National Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) were also announced.
 - Preliminary screening for District 3 (Franklin County), which allows applicants to receive feedback from NRAC, is due June 2, 2025, with final applications due August 29, 2025. District 3 has \$5 million available for fiscal year 2026.
 - There is no preliminary screening process for District 17 (Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow, and Pickaway Counties), but final applications are due September 19, 2025. District 17 has \$2.1 million available for fiscal year 2026.

VII. Other Business

- 1994-2024 Bikeway Facilities Comparison
 - Mr. Dixon and Ms. Mansperger presented an analysis comparing the 1994 Regional Bikeway Plan to the current network, showing significant progress with almost 1000 miles of existing bikeways.
- Chair Crosier shared that a brief survey for the Attributable Funds Committee was distributed last week to gather any feedback on the current funding processes. This feedback will be utilized to guide the policies for managing MORPC's attributable funding in advance of 2026. Responses must be submitted by May 23. Feedback of those responses will be provided at the June 2025 TAC meeting.
- Ms. Schaper announced that Elliott Lewis is leaving MORPC, thanking him for his contributions and wishing him well in his future endeavors.
- Chair Crosier reminded participants of the importance of Issue 2 on the May 6, 2025, ballot, encouraging them to spread the word within their jurisdiction to support the OPWC program.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.



Maria Schaper, Secretary
Transportation Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

May 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:

- Ensured department programs and projects, including TRAC applications, are congruent with adopted MTP goals and objectives.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- Designated new Franklin County mobility manager and began onboarding process, including training from Ohio LTAP and National Center for Mobility Management.
- Began identifying goals for mobility management, including expansion of impact and potential new partners.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- Funding agreements for FY24 are being finalized and awards from FY23 are ongoing.

Gohio Commute

- Released standalone Gohio Commute app, expanding access to commute planning tools, carpool matching, and new Commute Perks program.
- Launched a targeted advertising campaign in collaboration with Hunter Marketing, aiming to reach the 50,000 workers returning to office in Franklin County.
- Supported federal employees as they continue to navigate their return-to-work commutes, resulting in the addition of approximately twelve new vanpools to our program, with more in development projected for June 2025.
- Initiated planning for June 2025 outreach to Central Ohio employers to showcase the new Gohio Commute app & Commute Perks rewards program, encouraging internal promotion as a commuter benefit.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- In tandem with COTA, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and other local agencies, MORPC is supporting the implementation of LinkUS, including the transit-supportive infrastructure (TSI) program. MORPC is working with COTA and project sponsors to finalize TSI Program funding agreements and to update the 2026-2030 TSI Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The TSI Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) is scheduled to meet on May 29, 2025, and the TSI Leadership Committee (LC) is scheduled to meet on June 18, 2025 to consider updates to the 2026-2030 TSI CIP.

Passenger Rail

- 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):

- The SFY 26-29 TIP was adopted in May and transmitted to ODOT, FHWA, and FTA for final approval.
- The CORPO Committee met on May 5, 2025. The Committee approved 5 resolutions approving the FY 2026 Planning Work Program, adopting new CORPO Committee Bylaws, adopting the SFY 2026 – 2029 CORPO TIP, approving funding increase requests for two projects from the SFY 2024 –2025 CORPO Dedicated Funds program, and adopting the Policies for Managing CORPO Dedicated Funds for the SFY 2026 – 2027 program.
- CORPO staff have been preparing data and supporting materials needed to complete the Functional Classification Review process, then will coordinate with CORPO counties and jurisdictions on draft revisions to functional classification. The full review will need to be completed by August 2025.

Active Transportation Planning:

- The MORPC team is collaborating with ODOT District 6 and local partners to attend multiple events throughout the month of June 2025 to talk to community members about their walking and bicycling needs in and around the US23 corridor. This input will help guide active transportation planning in the US23 and Olentangy River corridor throughout Delaware County. Events where you can expect to see the team:
 - City of Delaware First Friday – Friday, June 1, 2025 from 6 to 9 pm
 - One Love Juneteenth Citywide Celebration (Delaware) – Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 12 to 4 pm
 - Olentangy River Festival (Delaware) – Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 12 to 4 pm
 - Worthington Farmers Market – Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 8 am to 12 pm
 - If you have suggestions for additional events that would be of value for the team to attend for public input, please reach out to Jordan Petrov at jpetrov@morpc.org.
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
 - OSU Active Transportation Advisory Committee monthly meeting on May 12, 2025
- Complete Streets project reviews were completed for the following MORPC-funded projects:
 - PID 120103 – Cemetery Road SUP – Stage 2

Transportation Safety:

- Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings and safety-related events:
 - SAFE Delaware County Coalition meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025
 - Vision Zero Columbus Corridor Evaluation for Whittier Street on Thursday, May 15, 2025
 - Ohio SHSP Speed Emphasis Area working group meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025
- MORPC has been collaborating with local and state partners to develop a formal procedure for and conduct workshops on implementation of the Safe System Approach in fatal crash reviews. The team collaborated with partners at OSU, City of Columbus, and Ohio State Highway Patrol to host an introductory session and separate workshop session at the 2025 Ohio Traffic Safety Summit in Columbus, Ohio on May 19-20, 2025.
- The MORPC team participated in a two-day workshop hosted by ODOT for the [NCHRP 20-44\(52\) implementation project](#). ODOT is working with the research team from Kittelson and Associates in collaboration with local partners to pilot the NCHRP 1036 Roadway Cross-Section Reallocation Guide on the E Main BRT corridor project. This workshop and the NCHRP research will help to inform the E Main BRT corridor design, as well as the community engagement process.

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 second Trail Wayfinding stakeholder workshop was held in collaboration with the City of Hilliard on May 27, 2025 to review the results of the cycling audit that was conducted and discuss identified opportunities, challenges, and potential recommendations.
- Initial stakeholder workshops with the City of Grove City and City of Gahanna for their ongoing technical assistance studies are currently scheduled for early June.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The SFY 26-29 TIP was adopted in May 2025 and transmitted to ODOT, FHWA, and FTA for final approval.
- Administrative modifications to the SFY 24-27 TIP were processed.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- A survey was shared with the AFC to collect feedback to guide the process of revising the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- SFY 26 SCIP/LTIP funding commitments for D3 (Franklin County) were approved.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- TRAC approved the 2025-2028 Major New Construction Program at its April 23, 2025 meeting. A total of \$319.3 million in new commitments were awarded to 14 projects. Of these, two projects in the

MORPC MPO area received \$90.8 million in new funding and two projects in the CORPO planning area received \$10.6 million in new funding.

- The 2025 ODOT TRAC application cycle opened on May 1, 2025 and closes on May 31, 2025. The next regularly scheduled TRAC meeting will take place June 25, 2025.

Federal Competitive Programs

- MORPC submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) program in January of 2025. On May 8, 2025, USDOT announced the RIA program with a notice of funding opportunity reissuance. MORPC inquired to RIA program administrators regarding this reissuance. On May 20, 2025, RIA program administrators confirmed that MORPC's proposal was not reviewed and are encouraging previous applicants to reapply. The context of MORPC's proposal looked to enhance the future delivery of Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) projects.
- The United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) invited MORPC to apply to the annual Partnership Planning Grant program. This program supports the update, revision and/or implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The application is due May 23, 2025, and MORPC's application will cover the scope of activities for the FY 2026.
- MORPC is developing a regional proposal for USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. This proposal focuses on planning and demonstration projects in the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) area. Organizations such as the Transportation Research Center, The Ohio State University, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Public Safety, American Honda Motor Company have all been engaged.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
 - April 28, 2025: Public Finance Investment Banking – Austin McGuan, Senior Vice President, Piper Sandler, & Co.
 - May 5, 2025: Data to Support New Federal Priorities, Adam Porr, MORPC
 - May 12, 2025: Clean Ohio Fund, Dr. Edwina Teye, MORPC
 - May 19, 2025: Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program, Charles Dietz, USDA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- The CEDS Committee met on May 22, 2025, which marks a full year of the Committee meetings. The team surveyed the committee members to solicit their feedback on the meeting format and content to ensure its value-add.
- The EDD Board and CEDS Committee bylaws are being reviewed by MORPC's Bylaw Review Committee.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- Internal coordination is in the final stages of a relaunch of the CAP program scheduled for July 2025. Additional details will be shared with MORPC members as we get closer to the launch date.

Brownfield Assessments:

- The Economic Development Office was provided notice from the U.S. EPA that MORPC was not awarded the Community Wide Assessment grant for brownfields. The team will continue to advocate for and promote brownfield funding opportunities to members.

Drive Investment Portal:

- The Drive Investment Portal continues to be a member-oriented resource provided by MORPC.

Freight Planning

- The Economic Development team hosted the 2nd Rickenbacker Area Freight Alliance Workshop on May 28, 2025. The purpose of this meeting is for stakeholders in Rickenbacker to provide project updates, discuss challenges, and collaborate on solutions. Congressional staff were present at the May meeting.

Regional Economic Development Academy

- MORPC is launching its first ever Regional Economic Development Academy (Academy), a one-of-a-kind training program to enhance your foundational knowledge of economic development tools and strategies. Participants will learn from practitioners and specialists through in-person instruction, real-world case studies, and interactive exercises on how to use the knowledge to support their daily work in their communities.

While open to all participants, the Academy is targeted towards public officials, school board members, township trustees, planning, and zoning board members to help build capacity at the local level. Click here for details on the course schedule: <https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/regional-economic-development-academy/>. The first course is on August 7, 2025.

Registration opens in June 2025.

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- MORPC has been selected to present a proposal to the Columbus Foundation Green Funds Committee for funding consideration. BLOOM (Building Landscapes of Opportunity & Mitigation) is 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 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, City of Westerville, City of Grove City, and City of Bexley to collect video image data that will support an AI safety analysis. Staff assisting with the project attended bike safety training at the end of May 2025.
- The COG Board met on May 21, 2025, to review working group progress, Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) projects, and approve the Trail Town brand.
- 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 working groups are finalizing the definition of a Gateway.
- The Environmental Sensitivity Index is available on the Central Ohio Greenways website.
- 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 GPS is seeking sponsorship for the 2025 COG Forums.
- GPS is developing project priorities for four workshops in 2025 and is developing a strategic plan to leverage existing MORPC and partner resources.
- The Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee has paused work through the summer. COG and MORPC are identifying strategies to continue the work later this year by leveraging resources from the COG, GPS and the Community Based Planning Assistance Program.

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 <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance> or contacting Jessica Kuenzli at jkuenzli@morpc.org.

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: <https://www.morpc.org/consultant-services-program/>.

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 jkuenzli@morpc.org.

STEPZ Workshop

- Planning Staff conducted the second installment of the Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) Workshop on May 20, 2025. STEPZ connects Central Ohio's planning community with the skills and insights needed to lead through change and shape the region's future. The audience for this session was planning staff and approximately 25 were in attendance. If you have any questions about the event and how it can assist your community's planning staff, contact Tunazzina Alam (talam@morpc.org).

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC):

The SAC will meet next on June 18, 2025, at Del-Co Water Company, featuring a tour of the floating solar installation. The SAC will discuss the 2025-2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda and make a recommendation to the Commission for adoption at their August 2025 meeting.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

- The Sub-committee is meeting on May 28, 2025, to review input on the draft agenda and make a recommendation to the SAC. MORPC hosted an online information session on April 23, 2025, and shared a draft document for input through May 15, 2025. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org).

Sustainable2050:

MORPC hosted the Sustainable2050 member forum on May 22, 2025, featuring a presentation from Ohio EPA about their free pollution prevention assistance program and a presentation about OSU's Environmental and Social Sustainability Lab. The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be on August 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. 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 bwhetstone@morpc.org

Water Resources Program:

Regional Water Advisory Council (formerly Sustaining Scioto Board)

- The first Regional Water Advisory Council meeting was held on April 30, 2025. The Council is now 34-members charged with providing the strategic framework on the management, planning, stewardship, and resiliency of waters in the region while continuing to ensure clean and abundant water is readily available for everyone in Central Ohio in the face of a changing climate, growth, and development. With the recent completion of the Regional Water Study, the Council is also positioning itself as an implementation body to help move the recommendations from the study into action. The next meeting is June 4, 2025.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

- The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team Chair and MORPC staff are working to develop a scope of work for the Outreach Team within the parameters of what the Team can reasonably implement, inform, and help elevate within the context of water resources management in the agricultural and rural communities. The Outreach Team will meet remotely on July 17, 2025.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- District 3 – Franklin County

District 3 has approximately \$5 million in Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program funds for FY 2026. Preliminary screeners are encouraged and are due on June 2, 2025, to eteye@morpc.org. Additional information and screener application documents can be found [here](#).

- District 17 – Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties

District 17 has approximately \$2.5 million available in the FY 2026 cycle. Final applications are due on September 19, 2025.

The District is seeking nominations from all categories for the Natural Resource Assistance Council. For more information about the nomination process, and the Clean Ohio funding for District 17, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org.

Regional Water Study

- MORPC, Ohio EPA and ODNR hosted the Central Ohio Regional Water Study Interactive Workshop on the Central Ohio Regional Water Study findings on May 13, 2025. The workshop was designed for local government decision-makers and their consultants to connect with the water study team with specific questions about the Regional Water Study findings and the new dashboard tool. The water study team, state agency personnel and consultants were on hand in breakout rooms and discussed the following topics: Interactive Dashboard, Project Planning, Understanding Groundwater Resources, Water Quality.
- Visit the [Regional Water Study website](#) to view the full 15-county study findings and your individual county's findings and explore the interactive dashboard.

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- After the passage of Resolution 04-25: "Authorizing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) the ability to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency", the agency is working 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 & Air Quality:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The Energy & Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) will hold its second meeting of the year on May 28, 2025. The Working Group will hear substantial updates on air quality, energy programming, and local and federal policy and legislation, particularly the effects of newly passed HB 15 that will provide new opportunities for local governments to build industrial energy parks in collaboration with energy-intensive manufacturing and businesses. The EAQWG's third meeting will coincide with the fourth and final session of the *Securing Our Energy Future* on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 from 1 – 3:00 pm at the OSU Energy Advancement and Innovation Center. See the next section below for more information. And, if interested in attending, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Energy Planning Outreach – Securing Our Energy Future Forum Series

- The four-part *Securing Our Energy Future* forum and workshop series is underway. The first session was held on May 15, 2025 – *Landscape of Energy Planning* – featured an expert panel of William Murdock (MORPC), Kenny McDonald (One Columbus), Kamran Ali (AEP), and Alex Denney (Ohio Business Roundtable) that discussed the big-picture challenges and opportunities from an influx of data centers and advanced manufacturing facing Central Ohio's energy future. The second session will be on June 5, 2025 – *Planning Energy Resilience for a High-Demand Future* – focusing on helping local government and community leaders understand and plan for big projects and utilize HB 15 to build industrial energy parks, as well as learning tools and strategies to integrate energy planning into comprehensive plans, looking at zoning, economic development, and public engagement.
- Come join the third session – *Funding and Resource Opportunities to Build Your Energy Stack* – on **Thursday, July 10, 2025 from 1 – 3 pm** at MORPC. This session will guide local leaders through the

diverse funding tools and incentives available to accelerate energy planning, programs, and projects. **Please register at our website:** <https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/energy-planning/>.

- The fourth and final session – *Emerging Energy Technologies and Future-Proofing the Region* – will occur on August 27, 2025 from 1 – 3 pm at the OSU Energy Advancement and Innovation Center, sponsored by the OSU Sustainability Institute. This event will explore cutting-edge advancements and applications on the horizon that will build energy resilience and open economic opportunities.
- For more information, please get in touch with Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC is one of five Charging Smart Regional Engagement Partner award winners. MORPC and support staff from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and Great Plains Institute (GPI) will guide local governments through the Charging Smart process – at no cost – to review and streamline procedures and policies in facilitating the adoption and accessibility of EV infrastructure for residents and businesses. The Charging Smart cohort will support 13 local governments across six counties – the Cities of Bexley, Chillicothe, Columbus, Delaware, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Hilliard, Mount Vernon, Newark, Upper Arlington, and Worthington, Fairfield County, and the Village of Granville. If you are interested in joining this cohort, please contact Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Home Weatherization and Energy Efficiency

- The MORPC Central Ohio's Safe and Energy Efficient (COSEE) Homes Program was one of six award winners of the inaugural Google Ohio Grid Innovation Fund. This initiative was launched in partnership with the Columbus Region Green Fund and Elevate to support clean energy projects that reduce harmful carbon emissions, provide industry workforce training, and offer continued energy education. COSEE Homes is focused on expanding MORPC's Residential Services weatherization program to include a wider pool of low- to moderate-income households in Franklin County. COSEE Homes will provide energy efficiency upgrades, including tankless water heaters, new furnaces, and attic and wall insulation to help reduce energy burden, increase grid resilience, and improve air quality.

Residential Solar

- The City of Columbus has partnered with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) and is offering a new solar co-op initiative – the Switch Together Program. Switch Together, a group-purchasing program, makes it more affordable for residents to install solar panels with significant discounts. While it lasts, 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: <https://www.SwitchTogether.com/Solar/Columbus> by Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

Air Quality

Air Quality Alerts

- No Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region through May 21, 2025.

US EPA funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project (CLEAN)

- The CLEAN project continues to make progress; notably, the sensors are now live and transmitting data, and the consultant team from Ramboll has created the Shair source apportionment dashboard for Franklin County. The dashboard is [viewable here](#). The team is now planning community outreach sessions for the summer. Additionally, in collaboration with the Communications & Engagement department, the team highlighted the accomplishments of the project on social media, as part of the programming for Air Quality Awareness Week, May 5 – 9, 2025.

Outreach

- The Air Quality team met with stakeholders through project-related outreach, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, community members through the City of Columbus Earth Day and Celebrate Trails Day festival, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, and Air Alliance Houston.

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 & Opportunity, Cybersecurity, and Regional Data Coaching projects. Notably, the Insights platform was launched to the public this month. At the next meeting the Committee plans to assemble a temporary Working Group charged with recommending updates to the Regional Data Agenda for 2026-2029. The RDAC will meet again in-person at MORPC on July 29, 2025.

Working Groups & User Groups

- Cybersecurity Working Group
- The Working Group has developed a plan to roll out the cybersecurity “First Aid Kit” and monthly “Cyber Tip of the Month” developed by the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee (OC3). The monthly content, which will be provided by OC3 staff, is intended to provide education and opportunities for further engagement, especially from resource-constrained local governments.
- The Working Group is also endeavoring to identify and extend the Group partnership to smaller communities who may have smaller technical staff.
- Interested parties who have not already done so should complete a Cybersecurity Working Group Interest Form at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/fc8qz5y6zh>.
- 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 May 21, 2025, to discuss and experience the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) Virtual Reality Ghost Neighborhoods Project. At the next meeting the Group will continue conversation around support for CURA’s Connect modeling project to leverage data to identify opportunities to improve underserved communities’ access to greenspace and trails.
- Regional Data Coaches Working Group
- The Working Group met on May 15, 2025. To foster interactions, an email featuring a word cloud of current members’ titles and organizations was sent out to the GIS and Data Coaches listservs. The listservs were promoted during the May 14, 2025, RIDG meeting to attract new members. To join the Data and/or GIS Coaches listserv, click [here](#).
- Group Members decided to shift to a monthly cadence for meetings and will host a virtual pop-up event in July 2025.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group
- The Working Group launched a selective 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. Feedback is due on May 30, 2025. The Working Group will meet next on June 12, 2025.

- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)
- The User Group met at the MORPC office on May 21, 2025. The meeting was very well attended with good presentations and discussions about different web applications and solutions. COGUG will meet again on August 20, 2025.
- Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)
- RIDG met on May 14, 2025. The discussion was 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 presentation, Chair Drummond highlighted 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 were 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. Chair Drummond introduced the emerging Dataspace Protocol and provided 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.
- The next RIDG meeting is currently scheduled for August 13, 2025. However, the date will be adjusted due to scheduling conflicts with the proposed presenters. Angie Westover-Munoz and Megan LePere-Schloop, both professors at The Ohio State University, are planning to discuss and present on relevant topics concerning AI and its use in the non-profit and government workplace. RIDG currently has a small survey active to collect some recommended feedback to help the presenters plan their content to be more catered to the Members needs. Planning for the November meeting will also begin in the next weeks to ensure there is ample time for coordinating schedules.

Data Management:

The MORPC Insights platform was released on May 8, 2025, after incorporating feedback received during the preceding soft-launch period. MORPC Insights (<https://morpc.org/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.

A directory page (<https://morpc.org/data>) has been created on the MORPC website to provide convenient access to major MORPC data products, including Insights, Mid-Ohio Open Data (MOOD), the Population Resource Hub, and the Leaders Listen survey series. The directory has a memorable URL and can be located using the search tool on the MORPC website.

The team also pursued several continuous improvement efforts:

- Documented the process for creating a Python virtual environment for executing scripts.
- Updated a multi-step workflow that is used to fetch, standardize, and transform birth and death counts, and migration estimates and use them to produce county-level population estimates and other standard

data products. Among other improvements, the workflow now makes use of Frictionless metadata and complies with standard variable naming conventions.

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

- Staff continue 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 staff 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 dataandmaps@morpc.org.
- 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 completed its collaboration 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 produced a semi-automated Python-based workflow which will be reproducible and adaptable for other counties. They also produced a comprehensive analysis comparing tax productivity throughout the county and exploring the relationships tax productivity has with land use, built form, era of construction, and other factors. The processes for working with county parcel data may also facilitate other critical MORPC work including sub-county population estimates. MORPC staff are reviewing the deliverables to evaluate next steps and consider potential follow-on projects for next year’s student cohort.
- The team met with technical staff from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and learned about their approach to forecasting and travel demand modeling. The meeting was especially helpful as an introduction to UrbanSim – a demographic/economic forecasting tool that could be a candidate for use by MORPC.
- The team presented a Money Mondays session with the theme “*Data to Support New Federal Priorities.*” The presentation focused on the priorities articulated in a January US DOT memo, what data can be used to evaluate needs or project impacts related to these priorities, and how MORPC’s Data & Mapping staff can help grant applicants obtain and analyze the data.
- The team produced a set of county-level population estimates as of January 1, 2025. Soon these estimates will be made available via the MORPC Insights platform. For now, they are available upon request.
- The team updated the “[What is driving population change in Central Ohio communities?](#)” dashboard to include the 2024 county-level factors of population change (births, deaths, and migration)

Mapping Activities

- Updating road attributes as part of updating LTS scores
- National Resource Advisory Council (Round 17-19 Clean Ohio Project) Interactive webmap
- Regionally Significant Econ Development web app
- Infrastructure webmap

- Drivetimes with Universities webmap
- Updated layers: Bikeways, development dots, COG and Sidewalks

Modeling Activities

- City of Groveport Traffic Study Request
- Bixby/US-33 Interchange Modeling
- MOVES Emission factors for CMAQ
- Processing traffic counts – MORPC now only accepts 24-hour counts as part of the traffic growth rate or area study requests.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Ralonda Hampton, Senior Director of Communications & Engagement – rhampton@morpc.org

News Releases:

- [New MORPC Survey Shows Housing, Jobs and Childcare as Top Economic Concerns for Central Ohio Residents – MORPC.org](#) (4/24/2025)
- [Google Announces MORPC as a Recipient of the Ohio Innovation Fund – MORPC.org](#) (5/1/2025)

MORPC in the News:

- [Housing, Jobs, and Childcare Top Economic Concerns in Central Ohio, New MORPC Survey Finds - Scioto Post](#) (4/24/2025)
- [New MORPC survey shows housing, jobs and childcare as top economic concerns | News | circlevilleherald.com](#) (4/25/2025)
- [Survey shows housing, jobs, childcare top economic concerns for central Ohio residents | News | perrytribune.com](#) (4/30/2025)
- [Commissioners hold annual 'State of County' address - Delaware Gazette](#) (5/1/2025)
- [Survey: Housing, jobs and childcare top concerns for central Ohio residents](#) (5/6/2025)
- [Citizens can be appointed to posts - Delaware Gazette](#) (5/9/2025)
- [Securing Our Energy Future: Landscape of Energy Planning - NewsBreak](#) (5/15/2025)
- [The Educational Scarcity Dilemma: A Suburb's Overcrowded School System](#) (5/15/2025)
- [Columbus falls in population ranking of U.S. cities as growth bested by Charlotte](#) (5/17/2025)

Digital Content:

- Air Quality Awareness Week; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Water Quality; SOTR; Member Monday; Securing Your Energy Future; Bike Safety Month, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, Public Service Recognition Week, MORPC Insights, Transportation Innovation Forum, Bike to Work Day, Economic Development Week, MORPC Interns, Infrastructure Week, Central Ohio Regional Water Study, Power 125 and MORPC News.
- Performance:
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
- Top Posts:
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)

Public Involvement Events:

- Transportation Innovation Forum: [5/2](#), [5/12](#), [5/20](#)
- Stepz Workshop: [5/5](#)
- Bike to Work Day: [5/14](#)
- Securing Our Energy Future Forum: [5/19](#), [5/20](#)

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.
- The Gohio Commute program is currently running a marketing campaign that includes social media, radio, and display ads to promote the Commuter Perks program and increase overall awareness.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – eleuby@morpc.org

Member Visits Completed

- 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.

Communications

- Member Newsletter issued 5/7/25

Member Benefits

- Member benefits of the month:
 - Added Columbus State Community College to our list of educational partnerships
 - Featured our Grantwriter vendor's services additional benefits: grant writing and post award grant management.
 - Added a free Cyber Security Kit

Completed Events

- Pre-Commission Luncheon on Housing on 5/8/25 (60 attendees).
- Rural Forum Series: Dynamic Community Engagement 5/21/25 (40 attendees).

Upcoming Events

- Pre-Commission Luncheon featuring Jason Hall, Columbus Partnership CEO 6/12/25.
- Mobility and Workforce Development at the Barn at Stratford in Delaware City 6/17/25.
- Central Area Regional Collaboration at Bob Crane Community Center in Upper Arlington 6/18/25.
- MORPC Night at the Clippers 6/18/25.

External Participation

- Represented MORPC at the Mid-Ohio Development Exchange Mixer 5/6/25.
- Represented MORPC at the Ohio University Alumni Association Awards Luncheon 5/14/25

Intern Program Coordination

- Fellows host orientation 5/6/25.
- Held Intern Orientation One 5/13/25 (35 interns attended).
 - Upcoming:
 - Second intern orientation 6/13/25 (16 interns to attend).
 - Presentation at the National Association of Regional Councils Conference 6/9/25.