



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

**NOTICE OF A MEETING  
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**REMOTE MEETING  
March 27, 2024, 10:00 am**

**AGENDA**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**MORPC Updates**

Legislative

Kyle Probert provided a concise overview of the federal and state legislative landscape. Congress finalized the FY24 budget, avoiding a shutdown, and is now preparing for FY25. The deadline for Senate-directed spending requests has passed, but House deadlines remain pending. At the state level, April 8 is the deadline for Senate capital budget submissions. Kyle also highlighted political shifts from the recent primary election, which may impact House leadership. Additionally, he celebrated the \$42 million USDOT Reconnecting Communities grant awarded to COTA for the LinkUS West Broad Street Connector, a major infrastructure project with Complete Streets implications.

LinkUS

Zach Sunderland, COTA, expanded on the LinkUS initiative, emphasizing the \$42 million federal grant and an additional \$15 million from ODOT TRAC for the West Broad Corridor. He detailed the structure of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) planning process, which includes leadership, technical, and working group committees. The TSI initiative is tied to a proposed sales tax increase, with 27.5% allocated to infrastructure like sidewalks and bikeways. Projects are being prioritized by quadrant within the COTA service area, with a goal of finalizing a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) by summer. Public engagement and feasibility studies for 20 projects are also underway, led by Franklin County Engineers.

**Working Group and Committee Updates**

Melinda Vonstein shared upcoming meeting dates for various working groups: Trail Development (April 18), Trail Towns (April 19), and Mapping Natural Assets (TBD). She noted significant summer trail closures and the need for coordinated communication. She also introduced Luke Messinger as the new CEO of RAPID 5, and discussed MORPC's support for RAPID 5 through mapping and technical assistance.

Trail Development Working Group

Melinda reported that the Trail Development Working Group is focused on expanding the Regional Trail Vision to MORPC's full 15-county area. Melinda proposed inviting one representative from each county to the Working Group and considering Board expansion to reflect the broader footprint.

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

#### Trail Towns Working Group and the Wayfinding Strategy

Melinda reported that the Trail Towns Working Group will review the finalized Wayfinding Strategy in April. Jesse Sampson is researching best practices for Trail Town websites and exploring ESRI tools like Story Maps and Dashboards to enhance user experience. The Strategy emphasizes cohesive signage while preserving local branding. Melinda also noted that a RAISE Application was recently submitted for trail town enhancements in three communities and regional bikeway expansion.

#### Trail Detours & Closures Working Group

MORPC is seeking Members to help develop clear, safe detour messaging.

#### Mapping Natural Assets Working Group

Melinda reported that the project to assess environmental data along watersheds is launching in April.

#### **Celebrate Trails Day**

Celebrate Trails Day is scheduled for April 27. The Central Ohio Greenways event, in partnership with Green Columbus, is the largest in the country. Organizations are encouraged to participate by hosting tables or providing speakers.

#### **Community Engagement – Hellbranch Trail**

Member Schamp discussed a community engagement effort in Hilliard regarding the Hellbranch Trail. A resurfacing project may allow for improved cyclist accommodations. A short survey is available via COG's social media and is open through the following Friday.

#### **Adjourn**

**Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or [LKaufman@morpc.org](mailto:LKaufman@morpc.org) to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.**



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
*Remote Meeting*

Central Ohio Greenways Board

March 27, 2024

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Members Present

- Laura Ball, City of Westerville
- Bertie Fields, Black Girls Do Bike
- Beth Hugh, Korda Nemeth Engineering
- Kari Kauffman, Experience Columbus
- Angela Mitchell, Black Women in Nature
- Alex Nouanesengsy, LCATS
- J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin
- Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
- Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus
- Kim Shields, Grove City
- Zach Sunderland, COTA
- Julie Walcoff, Toole Design

Public Present

Michael Lentz, City of Hilliard

Staff Present

- Tunazzina Alam
- Lauren Cardoni
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jordan Petrov
- Kyle Probert
- Jessie Sampson
- Melinda Vonstein