



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS
TRAIL DEVELOPMENT (RURAL) WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**REMOTE MEETING
May 15, 2025, 9:30 am**

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

Working Group Goals

Melinda Vonstein outlined the goals for the Working Group this year, which include maintaining the Regional Trail Vision, identifying connections to State Parks, aligning state and US bike routes, leveraging investment in Franklin County, identifying Gateways of Regional Significance, and holding Greenway Planning Studio Workshops.

Gateways of Regional Significance Definition Discussion

DRAFT Definition: A Gateway of Regional Significance is a premier trailhead located along a Trail of Regional Significance that provides and/or connects trail users to amenities, services, and information necessary to navigate the trail system.

Melinda presented a draft definition of a Gateway of Regional Significance and gathered feedback from the Working Group Members. Members and staff discussed the importance of both recreational and transportation uses for trails. The importance of amenities such as shade trees, water, and restrooms was also discussed, as these are essential for a comfortable and dignified experience for trail users.

Gateways of Regional Significance Identification Mini-Workshop

Members and staff discussed the potential connection between Gateways of Regional Significance and the Trail Town program. They considered whether Gateways should connect people to retail or destination centers with amenities like restaurants and shopping.

Types of Gateways

Member Fischer suggested that there could be different types of Gateways, such as commuter hubs or recreational family gathering places, each with different priorities and amenities. Staff and Members discussed the idea of having a checklist of amenities that Gateways must meet to be considered Gateways of Regional Significance, ensuring they cater to various needs. Examples would be Mobility Hubs, which would prioritize amenities like bus access and bike racks, catering to commuters, and Recreational Gateways, which would focus on amenities like fountains and family-friendly facilities, catering to recreational users.

Number of Gateways

Members and staff discussed the frequency of Gateways of Regional Significance, considering whether there should be a limited number of high-quality Gateways or a larger number of

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Gateways with varying levels of amenities. They also considered the differences between urban and rural areas, with urban areas potentially requiring more Gateways due to higher population density and usage. In rural areas, the focus might be on having fewer Gateways with concentrated high-quality amenities to ensure trail users have all necessary services in one place.

Trail Alignment & Realignment

Members and staff discussed the potential realignment of the Central Ohio Greenways network to follow the US bike route system. They considered whether to add proposed COG trails to serve the US bike route function and improve bike route facilities over time. Stakeholder input was deemed crucial in the realignment process to ensure the new routes meet the needs of the community and enhance connectivity.

Connecting to State Parks

Members and staff discussed the feasibility study for connecting the City of Bellefontaine to Indian Lake State Park. The study identified a preferred route and highlighted the importance of stakeholder feedback in the planning process.

State and US Bike Route Signage

Members and staff discussed the challenges of getting state and US bike routes signed and maintained. They noted that ODOT provides signs, but local jurisdictions must decide whether to sign the routes and maintain the signage.

Statewide Walk Bike Ohio Plan

Emma Kogge announced that she is working on the statewide Walk Bike Ohio Plan and suggested that the Working Group could be involved in the stakeholder engagement process. Members and staff expressed interest in participating and offered to help with the process.


Next Steps

Members agreed to send ideas for focus areas or conversations for the Greenway Planning Studio Workshops to Melinda Vonstein.

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 Trail Development (Rural) Working Group Meeting
will be July 17, 2025, at 9:30 am.
Details to follow.**



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Central Ohio Greenways Trail Development - Rural
Working Group Meeting

May 15, 2025

Members Present

- Laura Ball, City of Westerville
- Terry Fischer, Bike Buckeye Lake
- Beth Hugh, Korda Nemeth Engineering
- Dan Kaderly, Quarry Trails Metro Park
- Jimmy Little
- Andrew Overbeck, MKSK
- Nina Schultheis, Strand Associates
- Darryl Shipps, Toole Design
- James Walker, Marion County Regional Planning Commission

Staff Present

- Morgan Fuller
- Riky Jimenez Cuduco
- Lynn Kaufman
- Melinda Vonstein

Public Present

- Collin Adams, City of Obetz
- Emma Kogge



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

Trail Development Working Group

May 15, 2025



MORPC

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP 2024



GOALS

- 1) Maintain the Regional Trail Vision
 - Identify Connections to State Parks (rural)
 - Review opportunities to align State & US Bike Routes
 - Focus on Urban to Rural Connections
 - **Identify Gateways of Regional Significance**
 - Recommend priority project to the MORPC LINKUS TSI Committee
 - Plan Greenway Planning Studio Workshops to be hosted in the Fall.

MEETING DATES

January 7: 2:00 – 3:00 (Special Meeting)
January 23: 9:30 – 10:30 (Rural)
Feb 20: 9:30 – 10:15 (Urban)
March 13: 9:30 - 10:30 (Rural)
April 10: 9:30 - 10:30 (Urban)
May 15: 9:30 – 10:30 (Rural)
June 5: 9:30 – 10:30 (Urban)
July 17: 9:30 – 10:30 (Rural)
August 21: 9:30 – 10:30 (Urban)
September 18: 9:30 – 10:30 (Rural)
October 16: 9:30 – 10:30 (Urban)
November 13: 9:30 – 10:30 (Rural)
December 11: 9:30 -10:30 (Urban)



MORPC

GATEWAYS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE – DRAFT DEFINITION

A Gateway of Regional Significance is a premier trailhead located along a Trail of Regional Significance that provides and/or connects trail users to amenities, services, and information necessary to navigate the trail system.



MORPC

GATEWAYS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE – DRAFT DEFINITION

FEATURE REQUIREMENTS	ACCESS POINTS	TRAILHEAD LEVELS		
		BASIC	ENHANCED	PREMIER
Access to Streets & Roadways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Kiosk/Map		✓	✓	✓
Bike Parking		✓	✓	✓
Seating		✓	✓	✓
Transit Access*			✓	✓
Sidewalk Access			✓	✓
Restrooms			✓	✓
Water Access			✓	✓
Placemaking Elements				✓
Shelter(s)				✓
Facilities Staff				✓
Unique Design				✓

A Gateway of Regional Significance is a premier trailhead located along a Trail of Regional Significance that provides and/or connects trail users to amenities, services, and information necessary to navigate the trail system.



MORPC

REGIONAL BIKEWAY PLAN

1994

MPO BOUNDARY

PROPOSED BIKEWAYS

1994 BIKEWAYS

2024 BIKEWAYS



10X MILES ADDED

MPO BOUNDARY



PROPOSED BIKEWAYS



1994 BIKEWAYS



2024 BIKEWAYS



TO VIEW THE MAPS, SCAN THE QR CODE



THANK YOU!

MELINDA VONSTEIN, AICP

Greenway Planning Studio Lead

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4222

Mvonstein@morpc.org

