

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS)
Committee

Date: **May 22, 2025**

Time: **9:30 a.m.**

Location:

MORPC



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Members Present

Bailey, Todd
Ebersole, Brad
Hennessy, Daryl
Loges, Michael
McDaniel, Dana
Pride, Ruchelle
Szabrak, Rick

Brucker, Jamie
Fitzsimmons, Alexis
Korda, Peter
Lundine, Mark
Messinger, Rob
Reed, Jeff

Mallory, Kristin
Garcia, Jeremiah
Lamb, Bob
McCollough, Doug
Oddi, Alicia
Rummel, Lauren

Guests

Kelvin, Gabriel

Young, Haley (alternate for
Matt McCollister)

Meier, Kate (alternate for
Jesse Longoria)

Pasanen, Ally (alternate for
Eric Phillips)

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag
Hauter, Aubrey
Reda, Eva

Frick, Preston
Heider, Jon
Roy-Dixon, Padmini

Garrity, Joe
Hug, Ethan
Cheri Mansperger

I. Welcome

- Chair Hennessy called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
- Jeff Gottke and Gus Comstock were acknowledged for their service to the committee. Mr. Comstock left his role with Marion Can Do, and Mr. Gottke has taken a position with the City of Gahanna. The Committee will seek a replacement for Mr. Comstock and Mr. Sam Filkins at Knox ADF will be replacing Mr. Gottke.
- Chair Hennessy reminded committee members about the priorities of the CEDS, which include building on economic development success, increasing labor force participation, and aligning infrastructure development.

II. Economic Development District Report – Padmini Roy-Dixon, MORPC

- Ms. Roy-Dixon informed the committee of the following:

- An update on the Competitive Advantage Projects, highlighting changes such as alignment with EDA's investment priorities and the requirement for community support documentation. The program aims to leverage MORPC's programs in Community Based Planning Assistance and Technical Assistance. The program will re-launch in July.
- The launch of the Economic Development Academy, a new program by MORPC offering training workshops on economic development and community revitalization topics. The goal is to build capacity at the local level, especially among elected officials and community leaders. Classes start in August 2025.
- Findings from the Central Ohio Regional Water Study. The study indicates that while current water volumes are sufficient, there will be a need for investment in water treatment facilities and recycling strategies to meet future demand.
- All economic development districts are invited by the US EDA to apply for the annual Partnership Planning Grant. Grant applications are due May 23, 2025.
- MORPC's US EPA Brownfield Redevelopment grant application for community wide assessments was not awarded. A debrief has been scheduled for next week.
- Member Spotlight included: Ruchelle Prude was highlighted as Columbus 40 Under 40. Megan Meyer, Brad Dehays, Bob Lamb, Kenny McDonald, Rick Szabrak, Stephen Steinour, Jeremiah Garcia, and William Murdoch were recognized as part of Columbus Power 125.
- The committee was encouraged to attend The Transportation Innovation Forum on June 4, 2025, and Securing our Energy Future Workshop and Forum on June 5, 2025.
- The committee was thanked for their time, attention, and experiences as CEDS celebrates it's one year anniversary.

III. Economic Development Landscape Dashboard – Parag Agrawal, MORPC

- The Economic Development Dashboard was showcased, which includes data on regionally significant development projects, job announcements, and transportation projects. The dashboard aims to provide a comprehensive view of economic development and infrastructure planning in Central Ohio.
- A committee member asked if any cross-referencing job loss / weakness was being done as creating transportation channels in locations where jobs are needed can attract organizations as opposed to leading with jobs and then building transportation to them.
- Mr. Agrawal stated that it has not been considered and thanked the committee member for the feedback.
- A committee member asked if other infrastructure such as water or sewage would be included on the map.
- Mr. Agrawal explained that MORPC focuses more on transportation, but that water and sewage are important infrastructure and would be added to the next iteration of the dashboard.
- A committee member discussed the recent changes to information utility companies are now required to share.
- Mr. Agrawal further discussed that MORPC will need to investigate what changes have been made and what restraints will still be in place, but there could be a way to make data available.

- A committee member asked if a housing layer could be added that would detail how the housing was per month, and whether it was rented or owned. This type of information may help to start matching workforce with location and transportation availability.
- Mr. Agrawal thanked the committee member for the great feedback and stated housing is about economic development.
- Ms. Roy-Dixon added MORPC is looking at more economic development projects that will be added as an additional layer.

IV. Leaders Listen Survey – Ethan Hug, MORPC

- The results of the Leaders Listen survey were presented. The survey highlighted that housing affordability is a major concern for residents. The survey also revealed that many respondents have sacrificed or missed payments to afford their housing.
- A committee member asked if there is an opportunity to look at how people feel about housing affordability or job opportunities versus where we rank relative to other communities.
- Ms. Roy-Dixon referenced Columbus Foundation's Benchmarking Report to note that while the Columbus MSA is doing well, the survey statistics highlight areas of focus as the region grows.
- A committee member noticed that Franklin County had over 60% of all respondents and wondered if there's any difference between metro versus non-metro.
- Mr. Hug stated comparisons between the MPO area versus outside the MPO area are made during data analysis. The current format by individual county enables committee members to see comparisons to Franklin County. The overall urban divide is miniscule on several of the items.

V. Get Ready Initiative – Jon Heider, MORPC

- An update on the Intel drive planning efforts was shared, focusing on transportation and land use planning within a 40-minute drive time ring around the Intel site. The project aims to assess community readiness for growth and identify necessary infrastructure improvements.

VI. Community Case Studies – Chair Daryl Hennessy, City of Sunbury and Parag Agrawal, MORPC

- Chair Hennessy shared a case study on the impact of multifamily housing on student enrollment in Sunbury. The analysis revealed that multifamily developments have a lower impact on student enrollment compared to single-family homes, which helped the council confidently approve a new multifamily project.
- Mr. Agrawal encouraged committee members to volunteer and share their own case studies in future meetings. Potential topics include innovation districts, data centers, logistics hubs, and commercial developments.

VII. Other Business

- Ms. Hauter announced that the next meeting will be on August 21, 2025, and requested committee members to send a designee if they are unable to attend. A survey will be sent out to gather feedback on the format and content of the meetings.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aubrey Hauter".

Aubrey Hauter, MORPC STAFF