



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING
DATA FOR ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REMOTE MEETING
July 16, 2025, 10:00 am

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

MORPC Updates – Dave Dixon

Dave Dixon provided updates on several upcoming MORPC events:

Securing our Energy Future, August 27

Remaining sessions will be held at Ohio State. These focus on infrastructure and sustainability.

Economic Development Academy, August 7

Aimed at civic leaders and non-economic development professionals, though business interest is welcome. The curriculum includes infrastructure, planning, and funding strategies. Member Mosca asked whether the Economic Development Academy was geared toward businesses. Dave clarified that while the primary audience is civic stakeholders, businesses could benefit from the content and are welcome to attend.

Summit on Sustainability (September 30)

Registration is open and this event typically draws over 700 attendees and includes breakout sessions and Pecha Kucha presentations.

Digital Equity Coalition Name Change

Dave also shared that the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition has rebranded as the Connect US Coalition, continuing its mission to close the digital divide through device access, broadband, and digital skills training.

Member & Sector Updates

Member Mosca shared updates from the City of Columbus:

- The City of Columbus is transitioning from a race- and gender-based certification program to a Small and Regional Business Program, focusing on local economic growth.
- A MORPC intern, Joe, developed code to automate data collection and validation for the new program, significantly improving efficiency.
- The City of Columbus is hosting industry-specific networking events to connect small businesses with city departments and prime contractors. A recent catering showcase led to immediate contracting opportunities.
- She expressed interest in future collaboration with MORPC on economic development initiatives and mentioned support for COTA's upcoming LinkUS Summit.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Dave highlighted a potential collaboration with the nonprofit Treats for the Streets, which provides restaurant-quality meals to underserved populations. He suggested local caterers from the City of Columbus' network might be interested in supporting the initiative.

Discussion:

What modes and durations constitute reasonable access to a park or trail?

Dave initiated a discussion on what constitutes "reasonable access" to green spaces. Attendees considered:

- A 30-minute travel time (one-way) as a general threshold, based on average commute data.
- The importance of mode of travel (walking, biking, transit) and number of mode shifts (e.g., walking + bus).
- Member Mosca emphasized that safety concerns (e.g., walking along high-traffic roads) can deter access, even if the distance is short.
- MORPC staff noted that Placer.AI data from the City of Dublin could help analyze actual travel patterns to parks, including origin, destination, and mode.
- Attendees discussed whether to set mode-specific time caps or limit the number of mode transfers (e.g., no more than two).
- It was agreed that walking to green space can be part of the recreational experience, but mobility limitations must also be considered.

Attendees decided to review available data before finalizing any thresholds and acknowledged that contextual factors like safety and park size should be considered.

How should we go about defining 'traditionally marginalized or underrepresented groups' in terms of communities within the MPO area (greater Franklin and Delaware Counties)?

Dave introduced the need to define these groups spatially for the ConnectUS project. Attendees discussed:

- Using federal designations (e.g., persistent poverty areas, opportunity zones).
- Considering socioeconomic indicators such as income, disability status, and car ownership.
- Member Mosca noted that the City of Columbus is shifting toward socioeconomic-based criteria in policy decisions, moving away from race/gender-based definitions.
- Member Mosca suggested inviting Tinisha Hardin, Director of the Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities program, to the next meeting to provide insights on defining marginalized communities.

Attendees agreed that defining these areas accurately is essential for targeting investment and ensuring equitable access to green space and infrastructure.

Next Steps

MORPC staff will

- circulate a summary of the discussion and request feedback from absent Members.
- continue analyzing Placer.AI data and explore how to incorporate safety and park quality into access modeling.

Member Mosca will follow up with Tinisha Hardin about attending the next Working Group meeting.

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 Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group Meeting:
August 20, 2025, 10:00 am
This Meeting will be held remotely; details to follow.**



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group Meeting

July 16, 2025

Members Present

Julie Mosca, City of Columbus

Staff Present

Dave Dixon

Lynn Kaufman

Yan Liu