NOTICE OF A MEETING

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Monday, Aug. 2, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Click here to view the meeting on Microsoft Teams
Members must be at the meeting in person to vote.
Call in (audio only): +1 614-362-3056,,511584182#
Phone Conference ID: 511 584 182#

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. Welcome & Introductions – LaGrieta Holloway, Chair

5:32 p.m. Approval of June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

5:33 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Thea Ewing, MORPC
  • Monthly Report – Planning & Sustainability – Jennifer Noll, MORPC

5:45 p.m. Informational Items
  • 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment – Maria Schaper
  • Public Participation Plan Update – Niel Jurist, MORPC
  • Active Transportation Plan Update – Jennifer Noll, MORPC
  • Water Quality Management Plan Update – Edwina Teye, MORPC

6:55 p.m. Other Business

7:00 p.m. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY BEVAN SCHNECK AT 614.233.4130 OR EMAIL AT bschneck@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next CAC Meeting is
August 30, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Gromes
Secretary
NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED AS A VIRTUAL MEETING THROUGH MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM

Members Present

Dana Dorsey           LaGrieta Holloway          David Paul
Larry Robertson       Bob Roehm                  Helen Rollins
Vonjia Shannon        Erin Synk                  Tamika Vinson-Reid
Ira Weiss

MORPC Staff Present

Lauren Cardoni        Thea Ewing                Thomas Graham
Mary Ann Frantz       Ted Geer                  Ralonda Hampton
Niel Jurist           Jen Noll                  Stephen Patchan
Aaron Schill          Bevan Schneck

Guests:
Jason Yanni

I. Welcome & Introductions
- Chair LaGrieta Holloway called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There was a quorum present.
- [CAC Meeting Packet]

II. Approval of May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Chair Holloway asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ira Weiss moved; Dave Paul seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Thea Ewing, MORPC
- MORPC is working with partners at the Toledo Area Metropolitan Area Council of Governments on a US-23 study to improve the connections and free flow of traffic between Columbus and Toledo. Delaware County and the City of Delaware have been interested partners. CAC members were invited to an upcoming public involvement meeting. This study is also a project with an application for TRAC funding, which was included in MORPC’s prioritized list considered in the May meeting.
- [Route 23 Connect: Delaware Regional Connection Study (PID 112768) - PublicInput.com]
- The Commission and Transportation Policy Committee heard a presentation from Columbus Public Service Director Jennifer Gallagher and COTA President & CEO Joanna Pinkerton on the LinkUS State of Mobility Report in May. CAC
members might be interested in viewing it. A video of the presentation is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upaAEfmJFeUORPC.

- Ms. Ewing discussed an upcoming amendment to the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to include aspects of the LinkUS Mobility Initiative in order for COTA to receive FTA funding. The amendment, when drafted, will undergo a public comment period prior to consideration for adoption.

Public Involvement Plan Update – Bevan Schneck, MORPC

- Mr. Schneck highlighted a memo that was included in the meeting packet about work beginning to update MORPC’s Public Involvement Plan, which will now be called the Public Participation Plan. The update is not an overhaul, but it will include changes to be more inclusive and reference new technologies used since the current plan was adopted in 2015. A public comment period is expected in July, with the goal of having a resolution for adoption in September.

Monthly Report – Data & Mapping – Aaron Schill, MORPC

- Mr. Schill discussed the urban area designation criteria from the Census. MORPC sent a letter commenting on some of its concerns. It included using housing density instead of population density to designate a census block as urban vs rural. There are areas that have been developed as suburban (ie. Jefferson Township and Plain Township) that would be considered rural under the new changes. The dataset uses old data that does not include some recent growth, so MORPC is working to make sure that the new growth is captured. There are a few other concerns MORPC expressed as well, and MORPC will keep the committee updated.

- The Regional Data Advisory Committee met and heard about the recently released COVID-19 Policy Briefs. They also identified priorities from MORPC’s new Regional Data Agenda. The three priority areas are community data partnerships and capacity building, local government resources, and broadband/digital equity. There will be focused efforts on each of these areas.

IV. Resolutions

- Resolution T-6-21: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program – Thomas Graham, MORPC
  - The resolution adds or modifies 38 projects on the TIP. It incorporates MORPC’s attributable-funding commitments that were approved in May, and a number of local jurisdictions were submitting requests for members of Congress to have member-directed spending, or earmarks, which much be incorporated into the TIP. There were also a few changes requested by COTA (LinkUS east-west corridor), ODOT District 6 (Cleveland Ave. at Hudson Street), and Whitehall E. Broad/S. Hamilton Road.
  - A motion to approve the amendment was made by Ira Weiss; Tamika Vinson-Reid seconded. The motion passed.
  - The resolution was included in the meeting packet.

V. Informational Items

- COTA Multi-County Innovative Mobility Initiative – Jason Yanni, COTA
COTA was awarded funding from FTA ($1.7 million) for a web-based platform that uses artificial intelligence to help with traffic management in the region, including transit and on-time performance. It is a demonstration grant from the research arm of FTA.

It will allow for increased data visibility and help with planning to ensure they are looking at the region more holistically as they develop changes to the network. It includes a 13-county region.

The platform takes in data, consolidates it, and helps to develop actionable insights in order to be proactive in managing a given situation.

MORPC’s Paving the Way data helps with input to the program regarding construction activity, as an example of data that will be incorporated.

Presentation is available here.

Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Update – Jen Noll, MORPC

Ms. Noll provided an update on the Active Transportation Plan, which began in the spring of 2020 and focuses on walkable and bicycle-friendly communities.

The plan included a survey that demonstrated how comfortable Central Ohio cyclists are when biking and how infrastructure can support more cycling. A Level of Traffic Stress analysis was created, which shows that more than half of the current roadway network in the metropolitan planning organization is at the highest level of stress. This information will be included in a webmap that will also link users to guidance on safety enhancements when needed.

The final stakeholder meeting will take place this month. The ATP will include an action plan, and all the information will be put into a web-based story map and resource site. It will also align with MORPC’s updated Complete Streets Policy.

Ms. Synk expressed that the map was an interesting way to look at the data and asked if there is a way to estimate the actual speed traveled on roads versus posted speed limits. Ms. Noll replied that MORPC works with the data available, which is the posted speed limits – although there are some assumptions that can be made about comfortability.

Mr. Roehm asked about U.S. 33 south of Grandview Heights, where it crosses 5th Avenue and a trail ends. He wondered who would have to pay for a path. Ms. Noll acknowledged that it is a good question and said MORPC can help make the process easier.

Presentation is available here.

Transportation Safety Updates – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC

MORPC’s Safety Program includes a variety work and has expanded beyond the metropolitan planning organization area to include more of the region. MORPC is also engaged in various safety efforts at the state and local level.

MORPC’s Annual Safety Forum provides an opportunity for local, regional, and state partners to come together, and the next forum will take place September 21, 2021.

MORPC’s revamped State of Safety Report aligns better with the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan. The 2015-2019 report has been uploaded to www.morpc.org/safety. The next update (2016-2020) will be
released at the safety forum in September. Ms. Cardoni highlighted some of the statistics and trends, as well as how they relate to the regional performance measures in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan – many of which are trending in the wrong direction.

- A key insight in the COVID-19 Policy Brief on transportation was how traffic volumes, when lower, included a decline in total crashes, but the number of fatal crashes kept pace throughout 2020 compared to previous years. The rate of fatal crashes compared to total crashes also increased. This data was only for Franklin County.
- MORPC will continue to provide and enhance its safety work through refining its technical assistance, partnering more with local agencies to dig into issues that can be addressed more immediately, and working with partners at the state level to identify more funding.
- Mr. Roehm commented that news stories seem to unfairly point to crashes being the bicyclist’s of pedestrian’s fault.
- Mr. Paul asked about thoughts on how to proceed with safety enhancements or enforcement, specifically in relation to pedestrian fatalities on Morse Road, where pedestrian crossings are far apart, as well as specific sections of city code. Ms. Cardoni commented how the code is a problem and that there are also considerations for how streets are designed and funded.
  - Presentation is available here.

- Regional Mobility Plan – Mary Ann Frantz, MORPC
  - The Regional Mobility Plan for ODOT’s human services transportation coordination region 6 (nine counties) continues in an effort to improve service, increase coordination, reduce duplication, and fill gaps in relation to those with disabilities, older adults, and those with low incomes.
  - The plan is required by the Federal Transit Administration for funding and is expected to be completed in the fall. Surveys for transportation users are still being distributed and collected, and CAC members may receive the survey.
  - See the “What is the Regional Mobility Plan” handout.
  - Presentation is available here.

VI. Other Business

The next CAC meeting, in August, may have a hybrid option. If so, the options will be sent in advance.

VII. Adjourn

- Chair Holloway asked for a motion to adjourn: Dave Paul moved; Larry Robertson seconded; and the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Bevan Schneck, Secretary
Community Advisory Committee
Transportation & Infrastructure Development
Thea Ewing, Director – twalsh@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Staff continues to work on compiling data for the 2021 MTP Report Card.
- Staff is also working with the LinkUS team on a proposed amendment to the 2020-2050 MTP to reflect recent work completed by the LinkUS team to on the East-West transit corridors and the Northwest transit corridor based on recent corridor studies. The proposed amendment will be published for public review and comment August 1 – August 31, 2021.
- Staff completed the draft version of the MORPC Public Participation Plan (for the metropolitan planning organization area) – formerly the Public Involvement Plan – which has a public comment period from July 9 through August 25.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services

Mobility Management
- Survey outreach is continuing for the Regional Mobility Plan, the coordinated plan for ODOT’s Human Services Transportation Coordination Region 6. Radio advertisements will continue through the end of July, and mailed marketing will be completed on July 23. Survey responses are being mapped by home ZIP code to evaluate the balance of rural to urban input to determine if more outreach is necessary.
- Local-level strategies for the Regional Mobility Plan are being drafted and will be evaluated alongside survey responses before stakeholder review.
- Engagement with county commissioners in the Regional Mobility Alan area of interest is being initiated so they are included in the process before approval of the plan is requested.
- The Gohio Mobility specialized transportation search tool has gone through a round of user testing. MORPC staff is coordinating provider data improvements with ODOT and other improvements identified during user testing, as well as outlining the process for getting Ohio mobility managers on the platform and trained. A second round of user testing will be initiated after improvements needed from user testing feedback are completed.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient
- John Gardocki, MORPC’s Principal Transit Planner, began working at MORPC in June. Work has begun on releasing the call for projects for 5310 funding utilizing 2021 and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act /American Rescue Plan Act allocations. The call for projects will be released in August/September and will
be funded at 100% for this year only. A required workshop will be held virtually this year for any interested parties.

**Gohio Commute**

- Staff launched a new program called the Commute Action Fund. This fund is a tool for Central Ohio companies to fund new incentives and/or commute projects that motivate company associates to drive less and use sustainable modes of transportation to work. The fund aims to empower Central Ohio companies to take ownership of creating more sustainable commuter options for their workplace.

- Staff launched a new social media and radio campaign focused on the return to the workplace commute. This campaign raises awareness about commute options compared to driving alone.

- Mobility maps are being developed for two neighborhoods in Columbus – Linden and Franklinton. The mobility maps are a partnership effort with MORPC/Gohio staff and Columbus Public Health to identify safe multimodal routes to community resources. Gohio staff is working with the City of Dublin to draft a process for creating mobility maps that can be replicated regionally.

**Transportation Planning Activities**

**US 23 Connect Study**

- The first round of stakeholder and public engagement sessions were completed in mid-July, led by ODOT and its consultant team. A total of nine stakeholder and six virtual public meetings were held between July 7 and July 14. While there will be many opportunities to provide feedback throughout this study, comments following these meetings should be received by August 16, 2021 at transportation.ohio.gov/23connect.

- The second round of stakeholder and public engagement meetings are being scheduled in November. These will include virtual meetings and in person meetings. At these meetings the study team will provide information on the conceptual improvement alternatives and information on the impacts of the concepts.

**LinkUS**

- Staff continues to participate in the LinkUS initiative and providing support for COTA to identify the Locally Preferred Alternatives (LPAs) for the east-west corridors and the next steps to secure funding for the corridors.

- Phase 2 of the Northwest Corridor Study will begin in August. The Norwest Corridor study activities continue to be led by the City of Columbus.

**Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)**

- CORPO staff continues to assist the Union County Health Department’s MOVES Coalition work toward advancing transit in Union County. Staff is assisting with survey development, attending meetings, providing data and assisting with outreach.

- In June 2021, CORPO staff shared a draft copy of the Madison County Thoroughfare Plan with a zoning official in the state to ensure compliance with the processes in place in Madison County. Feedback was provided and staff will work to include that feedback in the document.
• CORPO staff will assist MORPC’s Data and Mapping team to develop a more robust process of gathering and analyzing building permits within rural member counties, to better develop land-use assumptions/modeling assumptions.

• ODOT announced the Regional Transportation Planning Grant Program, which will provide CORPO members access (through a competitive application process) to just under $1 million of dedicated funds in this two-year cycle. CORPO staff is currently developing a process CORPO members may apply for use of these funds for transportation projects. The proposed process will be introduced at the upcoming CORPO county subcommittee meetings in September 2021.

• CORPO staff has been assisting Bowling Green State University with the development of a survey that will gauge Central Ohio resident’s interest in relocating to a rural or exurban area.

• The next round of county-level CORPO subcommittee meetings has been scheduled for the week of September 13-17.

Infrastructure Funding

MORPC Attributable Funding

• Staff is preparing partnering agreements, which will be sent to all sponsors of projects that currently have a MORPC-attributable funding commitment.

• The biennial review of the MORPC Attributable Funding Policies will begin in the fall with meeting of the Attributable Funds Committee on September 1 at 10:00.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

• The Ohio Public Works Commission has allocated more than $27 million for state fiscal year 2023 in loans and grants for local infrastructure projects in District 3/Franklin County through the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP). Application materials were posted on MORPC’s website on July 1.

Eligible projects include improvements to roads, bridges, culverts, water supply systems, wastewater systems, storm water collection systems and solid waste disposal facilities. The Public Works Integrating Committee for District 3 will recommend funding awards for projects that are scheduled to begin construction between July 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023. Completed applications are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2021, for all applicants in District 3.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

• TRAC had a working session on June 23 and a meeting on July 21. The ODT staff recommendations presented at the working session and the meeting, included funding for 7 of the 9 projects (the top 7 in our priority ranking) in the MPO and one project in CORPO areas in Madison County. The draft list will be up for a vote on August 25, followed by a public comment period through September 15 – with a final vote scheduled for September 22.

Federal Competitive Grants

• The City of Columbus was awarded a $25 million INFRA grant from the US Department of Transportation for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. This phase involves
the reconstruction of interchanges and roadways on the innerbelt I-70 and I-71 freeways, and the grant will fund supporting infrastructure to reconnect communities split by the original freeway construction.

Data & Mapping
Aaron Schill, Director – aschill@morpc.org

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)
The RDAC will meet on September 7 to discuss the creation, staffing, and membership of new working groups, among other items.

Working Groups
- The Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit Working Group met on July 20 to discuss the final details for their survey, and to discuss the future of the group. The survey should be distributed to respondents in late July, with results to be presented at the September 7 RDAC meeting.
- The Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy Working Group members continues its work via the Fiber Network Subgroup. The working group’s next step is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Intent.

User Groups
- The Central Ohio GIS User Group will meet on September 2.
- The Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG) will meet on August 4. RIDG’s steering committee met on July 21 to discuss the structure and topics for the August 4 meeting. The steering committee will meet again on October 13.

Transportation
- GIS Manager Cheri Mansperger and the GIS Team continue their collaboration with ODOT to assist ODOT with consuming LBRS data.
- The GIS Team continues to support MORPC transportation staff by supplying requested maps – Transportation Improvement Districts, CORPO, Commuter, Mobility, Union County Micro-Mobility, Gohio, and many others.
- The GIS Team continues their review of existing land use at the parcel level for the 2024 MTP.
- Member of the GIS Team are assisting MORPC transportation staff with the LinkUs portion of the MTP Amendment.
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill and the data team are assisting MORPC’s transportation staff with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Data & Mapping Outreach and Collaboration

Broadband Access
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio staff, and PCs for People staff continue to meet with funders, wireless vendors, school
superintendents and other interested parties to further the success of the Central Ohio Broadband Access Pilot Program.

**Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition**
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill is serving as co-chair of the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition Steering Committee, and as chair of their Device Access Working Group.
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill is working to supply the coalition with digital literacy support mapping, and is creating a hub site for the coalition.

**COVID-19 Research Briefs**
- Through the efforts of Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill and Data Manager Liz Whelan-Jackson, MORPC released the Central Ohio COVID-19 Policy Briefs (morpc.org/covid19policybriefs) on May 4.
- Data Manager Liz Whelan-Jackson presented the policy briefs to the Columbus Metropolitan Library staff and executives on July 8, and to the Gahanna Rotary Club on July 21.

**Planning & Sustainability**
- Data & Mapping staff is collaborating with Planning & Sustainability staff to produce and analyze the Active Transportation Plan and the Technical Assistance Plans.
- GIS Manager Cheri Mansperger is working to create the Active Transportation Plan Story Map.
- Data & Mapping staff is supporting Planning & Sustainability staff with Complete Streets mapping and implementation of the Trails Impact Study.
- Data & Mapping staff is working closely with Planning & Sustainability staff on the Logan County 208 Project.
- The data team continues its work on metrics for the Regional Sustainability Agenda.
- Data & Mapping Staff contributed mapping, data, and guidance for the recent RAISE grant application.

**Housing**
- Data Manager Liz Whelan-Jackson and Planning & Sustainability staff are working to help Logan County Economic Development staff consume and use data to support their housing development goals.
- Data Manager Liz Whelan-Jackson and Planning & Sustainability staff are collaborating with Bowling Green State University to develop a survey on consumer housing demand and to identify partners to support distributing the survey.

**Other Outreach & Collaboration**
- Data & Mapping staff continue working with partners, other agencies, and ESRI to gather data for use with the new ESRI ArcGIS Urban program being rolled out.
- GIS Manager Cheri Mansperger continues working with the City of Columbus and other partners on the Central Data & Technology Council.
• Data & Mapping staff continues to update the COVID-19 Resource Hub (morpc.org/covid19) and Mid-Ohio Open Data/M.O.O.D (morpc.org/data) with information pertinent to members.

• The GIS Team is preparing Franklin County’s existing land use and zoning for the ESRI urban program.

• MORPC’s data team is preparing the application for MORPC’s membership in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP). The NNIP is a network of 30+ independent partner organizations whose mission is to ensure all communities have access to data and the skills to use information to advance equity and well being across neighborhoods. MORPC and OSU’s Center for Urban & Regional Analysis will partner in this membership.

• Data & Mapping staff is working to gather and input building permit data from members to calculate population estimates, and to create a population dashboard.

• Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill participated on the Census Data Panel at the Central Ohio Public Information Network Membership Meeting on July 14.

• Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill presented at the July 16 MORPC Housing Speaker Series.

• The GIS Team attended the annual Virtual ESRI User Conference in July.

• The GIS Team is assisting the Knox County Board of Elections with a spatial location project.

• The GIS Team updated Mount Sterling’s zoning map.

Planning & Sustainability
Kerstin Carr, Director – kcarr@morpc.org

Active Transportation Planning

Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
• Team members continue to build out the final deliverables for the ATP, which includes an interactive map with built-in design guidance, an action plan to accompany it, and a story map which outlines the development process. An update was provided to the Active Transportation Committee at the July meeting. The draft deliverables will be presented to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in September and a public comment period will be opened for review of the materials. The final ATP will be presented to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in October for adoption.

Complete Streets
• The Complete Streets Policy Update Steering Committee met June 24 to discuss the revised policy requirements and recommendations. A final draft of the policy update will be shared at the final project Steering Committee meeting on August 12. MORPC staff will then present the revised policy to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in September and host a public comment period for further review. The final policy will be presented to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in October for adoption.
Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

- The third quarter ATC meeting was held on July 13. Updates were provided to the committee on the current status of the ATP and Complete Streets Policy. Committee members were given the opportunity to review the current materials and provide feedback. ODOT provided an overview of the recently adopted statewide active transportation plan, Walk.Bike.Ohio. ODOT’s Walk.Bike.Ohio Plan and related technical memos can be found here: www.transportation.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/programs/walkbikeohio/welcome#page=1

Data Collection Program

- Team members continued coordination with FHWA and the Volpe Center throughout the month of June to develop a non-motorized volume data collection peer exchange. The peer exchange was held over the course of two afternoons on July 14-15. Experts from around the country joined MORPC staff to discuss successes and challenges with non-motorized volume data collection. A report will be developed later this summer by the Volpe Center that will document the peer exchange and key takeaways from the event. That report and presentation materials from the event can be shared upon request, once it becomes available. MORPC staff will take the lessons learned from this event and continue collaborating with regional partners to advance the region’s non-motorized data collection and management efforts. Any agencies interested in learning more about these efforts can contact Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org for more information.

Outreach

- The MORPC team hosted another virtual watch party for the monthly APBP webinar in June. These webinars will continue to be hosted by MORPC, with the next scheduled for August 18. Please contact Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org for more information.

insight2050

Technical Assistance Program (TAP):

- Columbus – Team members have developed a GIS model that analyzes the entire City of Columbus based on key characteristics to identify priority locations for safety improvements and/or speed management strategies. This model can potentially be modified and used throughout the region.

- Franklin County Engineer’s Office (FCEO) – Team members have developed a spreadsheet tool to help guide FCEO staff in the development of roadway projects to meet Complete Streets criteria. This tool can potentially be modified and used in association with the regional ATP update to guide roadway designers through the process of determining the most appropriate accommodations for people walking and bicycling.

- Hilliard Cemetery Road Project – Team members are working with Hilliard staff to finalize the Cemetery Road project deliverables, including the Best Practices Report and Conceptual Development Framework.

- Jefferson Township Blacklick Station – Team members are working with Jefferson Township staff to finalize the Blacklick Station project deliverables, including the Best Practices Report and Conceptual Development Framework.
• Westerville Cleveland Avenue Prioritization Project – Team members are working with Westerville staff to schedule public engagement events to review the final document with community stakeholders.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS)

• The Regional Housing Speaker Series continued in July with a session titled “A ZIP Code Shouldn’t Determine Outcomes, But it Does.” Over 100 people registered for this session, which is now available on MORPC’s YouTube channel. The next panel discussion will take place on August 20, on the topic of 15-Minute Cities.

Transportation Safety

Committee Meetings

• The Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee meeting on June 7 shared that, as of May 2021, the State of Ohio has seen 489 traffic fatalities. This is the highest year-to-date number on record. January, April, and May all saw record highs in traffic fatalities.

• ODOT’s Pedestrian Safety Improvement Program is moving into the construction phase with seven of the eight cities that are involved. Columbus is included in this program.

• ODOT has been revamping the safety program and will be launching a new Systemic Safety Improvement Program in January 2022. Roadway departure and pedestrian-involved crashes will be two key focus areas for that effort.

• The Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting took place on July 8. Four of the seven fatal crashes reviewed involved people walking and bicycling; six of the seven fatal crashes reviewed involved people impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

Annual Safety Forum

• Team members are working toward the second annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum that will be held on Tuesday, September 21.

Sustainable2050

Member Engagement

• Members held their Q2 meeting in June and were provided updates from MORPC staff on the Regional Sustainability Agenda and MORPC’s recent SolSmart designation. Air quality was the topic for the member presentation and roundtable discussion, reminding members that summertime is peak Air Quality Alert season.

Greenways & Water Resources Program

Trail Towns Program

• Team members secured grants in the amount of $20,000 from the Columbus Foundation, $5,000 from Ohio to Erie Trail Group, and $5,000 from Rails to Trails Conservancy to develop a Central Ohio Trail Town Guidebook. Villages and organizations along the Ohio to Erie Trail are also committing funding to the project. Team members have met with stakeholders along the Ohio to Erie Trail to discuss the
scope of work and expect to release an RFP this fall to select a consultant to develop the project.

**RAISE Grant Submission**
- Team members collaborated with the Franklin County Engineer’s Office, City of Columbus, City of Gahanna, and City of Whitehall to develop and submit a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The grant requests $22 million for six projects totaling 14 miles of trails and active transportation infrastructure. Awarded applicants will be notified in November 2021.

**Central Ohio Greenways Board (COG)**
- The COG board met on Wednesday, July 21. The agenda included legislative updates, information on the RAISE grant application, updates on RAPID 5 (www.rapid5.org), and presentations from the Easton Fellows on their respective projects.

**COG Working Groups**
- **Marketing & Communications Working Group:** The chair updated the board on the Trail Count Program and presented the Final Urban Greenway Design Guide.
- **Operations & Access Working Group:** The chair presented on the proposed Easton Trail head and updated the board on the Outreach Guidelines.
- **Partnership Working Group:** The chair updated the board on the status of the Economic Impacts of Trails study, currently in its draft form.
- **Trail Development Working Group:** The chair presented updates on the Trail Town Projects and Bandwango, the passport program that COG is partnering on with Experience Columbus.

**Sustaining Scioto Board**
- At the June 23 meeting, MORPC staff presented on the regional trail vision. A working team with volunteers from the board was formed to provide recommendations for environmentally sensitive trail design guidelines. This effort will engage partners who have shared concerns about the impact of trail building in sensitive areas along local waterways. The next meeting will take place on August 25.

**Agriculture & Rural Communities Outreach Team**
- The team met on July 15. Jedediah Stinner from the USDA - ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit presented to the group on the Edge-of-Field Network Project focused on conservation measures to reduce anthracene loss from agricultural fields across the state. The team continues work on the Key Informant Social Science Survey, which has been rolled out to district administrators of soil and water conservation districts with major portions in the Scioto watershed. The pre-survey questions will be shared with the district county supervisors through the month of July, with follow-up interviews tentatively planned for August. The team also has an opportunity to collaborate with Prof. Matthew Hamilton of OSU’s School of Environment and Natural Resources, with his capstone Class supporting the survey analysis.

**Water Quality Management Plans**
- MORPC staff is moving forward with Logan County planning efforts and hosted the initial stakeholder meeting in June to introduce the project and request data. Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission offered helpful guidance on additional
outreach opportunities through upcoming meetings in the county. Presentations have been scheduled as a result.

Virtual Riverfest

- Virtual Riverfest took place the week of June 21 with the theme of “Wellness & Water.” Educational messages were posted each day on social media and several MORPC partners were featured. Video content was used to promote Riverfest, with one video featuring an interview with the director of the African American Male Wellness Agency to highlight the importance of regional water resources and their role providing opportunities for recreation and supporting wellness.

Energy & Air Quality

- There have been no Air Quality Alerts issued this year, but staff participated in media interviews about the impact of wildfires on elevated particulate matter levels in Central Ohio.

- Additional PurpleAir monitors have been purchased along with wi-fi hotspots, and staff is working to site and install the monitors in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. Staff is collocating a monitor with an Ohio EPA federal monitor and moving forward with installing monitors at various locations in targeted ZIP codes. There is still a need for a few site hosts in targeted locations and that outreach is ongoing.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The next working group meeting will take place on July 27 with updates from Ohio EPA, a guest speaker, and MORPC staff updates, including air quality monitoring and the Summit on Sustainability.

Local Government Energy Partnership

- MORPC supported a successful application submitted by UNPREDICTABLEcity for a SolSmart Technical Advisor RFP. Central Ohio communities can access free technical assistance toward earning SolSmart designation, a national program that recognizes communities for encouraging solar growth. MORPC was recently designated a regional SolSmart community, receiving the Silver designation. Increasing the number of designated communities can help the region advance to Gold. The Energy and Sustainability Coordinator job was also posted and shared with a variety of partners and stakeholders.

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

- The SAC met June 16, when the MORPC team presented on proposed targets for the Regional Sustainability Agenda’s measurable objectives, with the remaining targets to be presented at the next meeting. Hilliard’s Platinum Sustainable2050 Certification was also presented and approved. The Sustainability Advisory Committee will meet again on September 15.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA)

- The summary document has been designed and is available on the website at https://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-REGIONAL-SUSTAINABILITY-AGENDA.pdf. The equity checklist document design is nearly complete, and the larger resource document will be designed next. A website about the
RSA is under development to house all related documents. The next steps are to finalize the targets, update the Sustainable2050 certification process, and update the Regional Sustainability Dashboard in coordination with CURA at OSU.

Communications & Engagement

Niel Jurist, Director – njurist@morpc.org

News Releases

- MORPC to Update Public Involvement Plan
- MORPC and Partners Launch Neighborhood Air Quality Monitoring Program
- U.S. Route 23 Study Begins, Public Input Opportunities in July
- MORPC Matters: Greenways Can be 'Backbone' of Transportation Network
- MORPC Updates Transportation Public Participation Plan

MORPC in the News

- Amtrak, allies stump for passenger rail expansion
- Opinion: Amtrak plan important for central Ohio
- All Sides with Ann Fisher: The Future of Columbus' Transportation
- Council lauds effort to save Partridge home
- Marysville City Council Members, City Law Director Closer To Seeing Salary Increases
- COTA board adds three new members, approves two contracts for workers
- Ohio Conference On Freight Discussion Highlights Pandemic Recovery, Infrastructure
- City of Columbus contribution to mega-highway project adding up
- Ohio DOT Study Considers Toledo-Columbus Corridor
- Smart City supporters say work has put Columbus ahead of its peers
- Train could connect the Gem City to the Windy and Steel cities
- ODOT wraps up lane configuration, signage project on US 23
- Ohio State city-planning students recommend adding 29 CoGo bike-share stations in central Ohio
- MORPC Matters: Greenways can be 'backbone' of transportation network
- ODOT, others launch study to fix Route 23 congestion in Delaware County
- Smart Columbus: What did we learn? - Columbus Business First

Digital Content

Social media and website content for the month included:
The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is developing a Regional Mobility Plan to identify local transportation needs of people with disabilities, older adults, and those with low incomes. It will help to provide strategies for meeting those needs and prioritize transportation services and projects for funding and implementation.

**GOALS FOR THE REGIONAL MOBILITY PLAN**

- Identify community resources for transportation and mobility
- Understand the gaps and unmet needs within those resources
- Determine the approach to addressing those gaps and needs

**WHY DEVELOP A REGIONAL MOBILITY PLAN?**

The impetus for developing the Regional Mobility Plan follows ODOT’s Human Service Transportation Coordination Region (HSTC) goals. Additionally, the Regional Mobility Plan is required to receive FTA Section 5310 funding to enhance transportation for older adults and people with disabilities. ODOT’s Office of Transit has determined need to develop regional structure for human services transportation at a larger scale to overcome local level limitations.

The purpose of a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan (Mobility Plan) is to identify community resources for transportation and mobility, understand the gaps and unmet needs within those resources, and to determine the approach to addressing those gaps and needs. Additionally, existing human service transportation in the Central Ohio region has largely consisted of fragmented systems operated by individual counties or other local groups. ODOT’s HSTC has defined boundaries for the Central Ohio region as noted in the map below, designated as HSTC Region 6.

This coordination region includes 9 counties with some overlapping the Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission (LUC), the Buckeye Hills Regional Council, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC), the Central Ohio RTPO (CORPO) and MORPC’s Mobility Management Area of Interest.

**Questions?**

Lexi Petrella  
Mobility Coordinator, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)  
apetrella@morpc.org  
(380)235-1275
The following pages are informational items that will be discussed or presented at the meeting.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

2021 Update

• For informational purposes today

• Resolution for consideration at September meeting
WHAT IS THE PLAN?

Lays out how a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) reaches out to members of the public for their input as it carries out the transportation planning process

- Required through federal MPO regulations
- A set of procedures to be consistently applied to incorporate public participation in the transportation planning process
- Includes planning and development of programs and projects of Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and Delaware County Transit

2021 PLAN UPDATE

- Update rather than overhaul
  - Driven by new/emerging technologies and strategies to effectively reach diverse populations
- Previous plan adopted in 2015
- Public “Involvement” Plan → Public “Participation” Plan

Available at morpc.org
### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

An overall process based on the following goals:

- Provide timely information about planning issues and processes to the public
- Foster transparency by providing public access to technical and policy information used in the development of transportation plans/programs
- Employ visualization techniques to describe plans/programs (maps, charts, graphs, pictures)
- Provide adequate notice of public participation and planning activities
- Continually seek specific ways to engage and consider the needs of all segments of the population
- Obtain early and continuous public participation in the transportation planning process

### THREE LAYERS OF PARTICIPATION

- Committees

    ![Transportation Policy Committee Diagram](transportation(policy-committee.png)

    - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
    - Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
    - MPO Staff

- Project-specific Process

- General Public Outreach and Dissemination
**MTP**
- 20-year, long-range plan
- Adopted every four years
- Rarely amended

**TIP**
- 4-year program of funded projects
- Adopted every two years
- Regularly amended

**PWP**
- Specifies the priorities and activities for transportation planning
- How MORPC does its work
- Adopted annually

---

**CHANGES**

- **New technology options** and outreach methods
- References to MORPC’s **non-MPO committees** as helping to inform the work of the MPO
- More direct references to **Title VI Plan** and **Limited English Proficiency Plan**
  - Additional references for **language translation and accommodations** for hearing-impaired individuals
- **Public health emergency** and **disaster recovery** language
- Specifying that when there are **signification changes to a plan or program as a result of a public comment period**, there will be additional opportunity for review and comment
- Specifies how **changes to the public participation plan** are made, including periodic review of strategies and procedures
The plan actively seeks the views of minority, disabled, low-income, and other populations traditionally underserved by transportation.

The updated plan is more specific about who we are trying to reach for input.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The general public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minorities (Black or African Americans, Hispanic or Latinx, Asian or Asian Americans, American Indian or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign-born residents and foreign-speaking populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower-income individuals and families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicyclists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian facility users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood/civic associations and area commissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercity bus and rail operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural and built environment interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and employer interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private providers of transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Interested parties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEXT STEPS**

- Comments through 5 p.m. August 25
- Resolution for adoption at September meeting
- Plan reviewed by ODOT, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration
- Final plan in PDF and web-friendly format at morpc.org

**COMMENT PERIOD**

July 9 - August 25

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Draft plan available at morpc.org.
PROJECT RECAP
Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress Map

- LTS 1 (interested/concerned) – 8.3 mi
- LTS 2 (somewhat confident) – 44.1 mi
- LTS 3 (highly confident) – 695.3 mi
- LTS 4 (expert) – 1,235.1 mi
- No data - 15 mi

Total Road Miles – 1,997.8
PROJECT RECAP
The ATP Will Address This By…

OUR VISION:
Central Ohio will implement and maintain an equitable network of active transportation infrastructure that ensures the regional transportation system supports and accommodates mobility for all users, inclusive of all ages and abilities, while advancing the regional priorities established in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

PROJECT RECAP
Central Ohio Can Achieve This Vision By…

GOAL 1: SAFETY
Increase the safety of Central Ohio’s active transportation system.

GOAL 2: COMFORT
Improve the level of comfort on Central Ohio’s active transportation system.

GOAL 3: CONNECTIVITY
Expand the connectivity of Central Ohio’s active transportation network.

GOAL 4: ACCESS
Increase access to active transportation infrastructure across Central Ohio.
COMMUNITY INPUT

• Steering Committee
• Stakeholder Advisory Board
• Focus Groups
• Public Survey

CENTRAL OHIO WALKING & BIKING SURVEY

Share your thoughts on walking and biking in Central Ohio and ENTER TO WIN A FREE BIKE!

Visit www.morpc.org/ATP

We want to hear from you!
Call 614-228-2663 for other survey options
WHY NOT?

Why don’t you bike more frequently?

- Lack of Paths: 58%
- Too Many Cars/Motorists Drive Too Fast: 55%
- Unsafe Motorist Behavior: 40%
- Distance to Destination: 33%

Why don’t you walk more frequently?

- Distance to Destination: 60%
- Lack of Sidewalks: 47%
- Too Many Cars/Motorists Drive Too Fast: 34%

Traffic Safety While Biking

- Experienced a close call or crash while biking in Central Ohio in the past year: 78%

- Older Adults: 20%
- Nonwhite: 20%
- Low Income: 29%
- Urban: 22%
- Suburban: 19%
- Rural: 17%
- Female: 17%

All respondents – 24%
Traffic Safety While Walking

- Experienced a close call or crash while biking in Central Ohio in the past year:
  - All respondents: 22%
  - Older Adults: 16%
  - Nonwhite: 15%
  - Low Income: 28%
  - Urban: 18%
  - Suburban: 18%
  - Rural: 20%

Focus Groups – Key Themes

**Barriers**
- Lack of facilities
- Poor condition of facilities
- Personal safety and traffic safety
- Dangerous driver behavior
- Lack of bike equipment and maintenance knowledge
- Lack of connectivity to the places they want and need to go

**Solutions**
- Designated bike facilities and sidewalks
- Inclusive programming and education
- Group rides, bike clubs, and walking clubs
- Bike-friendly businesses
- Well-maintained facilities
- Accessible street furniture
# Considerations for User Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKFORCE</th>
<th>OLDER ADULTS</th>
<th>YOUTH</th>
<th>DISABILITIES</th>
<th>PEOPLE OF COLOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bike parking, showers, etc. at the workplace</td>
<td>Information on accessible routes</td>
<td>Youth-led programs</td>
<td>Sidewalk maintenance</td>
<td>Designated facilities for walking &amp; biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incentives to use transit/modes other than a car</td>
<td>Neighborhood peer-led clubs/groups</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Maintenance training</td>
<td>Audible crossings</td>
<td>Multilingual educational materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prioritize first-/last-mile investments in transportation</td>
<td>Street furniture/amenities</td>
<td>Group rides</td>
<td>Availability of inclusive bikeshare (e.g. hand cycles)</td>
<td>Multilingual wayfinding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved shelters, facilities</td>
<td>Improved signal timing</td>
<td>Safe &amp; welcoming community spaces</td>
<td>Well-connected trails and sidewalks</td>
<td>Community-led programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NEXT STEPS

- Action Plan
- Story Map
- Design Guidance
- Align with updated Complete Streets Policy
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Overview of Water Quality Management Plans

- Broad, multi-watershed look
- Identifies primary issues and threats
- Special focus on regional sewage collection & treatment needs
- Recommends broad strategies to improve water quality
- Results in Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan
  “Central Ohio Water Resources Plan”

IMPACT OF WQM PLANS

ORC 6111.03(J) – Powers of Director

- Permits must not conflict with approved 208 Plan
ROLE OF MORPC

• Inventory, map, & analyze existing conditions
• Evaluate projected needs to 2040
• Identify & map designated management agencies & facility planning areas
• Develop recommendations and best management practices
• Maintain plan

PLANNING PHASES
PLANNING PROCESS

DECEMBER 2020

Morrow County Coordination
Study Organization & Coordination
Inventory Existing Conditions
Public Involvement

Logan County Coordination
Write Plan
Submit to OEPA

Champaign County Coordination
Write Plan
Submit to OEPA

Public Involvement

DECEMBER 2021

OEPA adopts Plan

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