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| Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | |
| Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | |
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| Date: | ­­­­­­­­­­December 2, 2019 |
| Time: | 5:30 p.m. |
| Location: | MORPC |

# 

**Members Present**

William Allman

Len Fisher

Catherine Girves

LaGrieta Holloway

Grant Huling

David Paul

Larry Robertson

Bob Roehm

Jonathan Steward

Ira Weiss

**Guests Present**

Dana Dorsey

Roy Wentzel

**MORPC Staff Present**

Marta Crispin

Mary Ann Frantz

Nick Gill

Ronni Nimps

Stephen Patchan

Nick Gill

Niel Jurist

Jennifer Noll

Aaron Schill

Bevan Schneck

Nathaniel Vogt

Thea Walsh

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

* Chair Catherine Girves called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. **Approval of November 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

* Chair Girves asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Ira Weiss moved; LaGrieta Holloway seconded; and the motion carried.

The Chair requested to advance the **Community Advisory Committee organizational update**.

Since the last meeting the Chair has met with staff, officers and former CAC Chair’s to discuss the proposal.

Requested that staff go over proposal and subsequent discussions on the matter.

Thea Walsh explained and reviewed proposal.

The focus of the proposal is to broaden and diversify the Community Advisory Committee representation to be reflective of MORPC membership communities.

To develop the proposal, guidance on the matter was sought from the Executive Director and the Communications and Engagement Director.

Niel explained that the proposal was consistent with the agency’s Diversity and Inclusion Plan. This effort is to ensure that all voices are being heard. This will include underserved and underrepresented populations. The proposal is also intended to attract younger adults and millennials to become more involved with their government.

The Chair said “The CAC has open seats on the committee right now. Can appointments be made for current nominations at tonight’s meeting?”

Niel Jurist replied that no nominees would be appointed at the meeting.

The Chair said that there are nominees that have been trying to be appointed for six or seven months. The Chair requested the appointment process be shared with the CAC.

Thea replied that the appointees are approved by the Chair and the Executive Director.

Niel said appointments will be considered after changes to the committee structure.

The Chair said the CAC would like to see that vacant seats filled before any organizational changes are implemented.

Dave Paul said that he is concerned that the staff will not be able to keep up with the demand of a bigger CAC group if they cannot seem to keep all of the vacant seats filled now.

Thea replied that a larger CAC is needed in order to best represent MORPC membership.

LaGrieta Holloway said that she is concerned that quarterly meetings are not enough meetings in a year. Also, meetings in the morning will limit the ability of working people to attend.

Thea explained that after review of previous year’s business she recommended that the CAC have 8 meetings and 2 committee experiences a year, with preference for morning meetings since many of the representatives may be representing their employer. This will allow CAC materials to be shared more broadly by representative groups.

David Paul said that MORPC staff doesn’t share materials that are easily shared with other groups that CAC members represent.

Thea explained that there is a desire to have better curation of materials for the CAC.

Ira said, “It is challenging for the CAC to even find 24 members.”

Thea said that the CAC currently only hears transportation planning matters. The proposed CAC would hear all MORPC matters.

Larry Robertson said that many CAC members are specifically interested in transportation planning.

CAC Member (unknown) said “If we meet less often, we need to have longer meetings.”

Thea explained that staff will be able to cover more material in less time if the meeting is not duplicative of the TAC agenda. This will allow the meeting to be specifically targeted to the audience and cover all MORPC programming.

CAC Member (unknown) requested a summary document of meeting materials for each meeting and an evaluation form for each meeting.

Grant Huling said that he prefers morning meeting times.

Len Fisher said that he has struggled to capture the attention of the Delaware County Officials as a CAC member.

Bob Roehm said that he doesn’t share CAC materials with groups he represents but he considers their perspective in his CAC voting.

Dana Dorsey explained why she is interested in being a CAC member.

CAC Member (unknown) said, “If the CAC is larger, won’t there be a need for subcommittees of the CAC”?

Thea replied that the subcommittees could be considered after a trial period.

Niel also replied “We need many diverse members”.

The Chair said, “Why do we need to dramatically change what’s happening? Why bring new people on? The CAC wants to see the vacant seats filled”.

Thea answered, “We will prioritize filling vacant seats,”

Niel said the appointment process is in our bylaws on the website. We will make sure members are emailed a copy.

Thea said, “We will meet again in February to move this discussion forward.”

The Chair agreed.

1. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Thea Walsh, MORPC

* Outreach for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) has begun. MORPC is engaging communities within the planning organization to provide information regarding the transportation planning process and the projects from their community that are on the plan. Public feedback is being sought by early April 2020.
* A proposal has been sent for maglev (magnetic levitation) funding through the FRA for up to $5 billion for continuing Hyperloop environmental studies of the core section through Columbus.
* A request for proposals was released by Virgin Hyperloop One looking for a place to do research and development and to certify their technologies.

**Delaware County Transit Board**

* DCTB staff training is in progress for the new scheduling and dispatching software. The go-live date is December 16, 2019.
* Delaware County Transit has been awarded with $843,000 from the Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) for service expansion, vehicles, and parking pavement.

**COTA**

* On December 2, 2019, COTA joined Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and The Ohio State University to honor Rosa Parks with a community forum at the Fawcett Center. An assembly will be held on the morning of December 3, 2019 for elementary school children from across Central Ohio to learn about the history of civil rights.
* COTA and the City of Columbus led the second Mobility Innovation Test during the OSU vs. Penn State game. During the test, dubbed the Game Day Mobility Lane, a lane was dedicated to buses, bicycles, and scooters for two hours before the game and an hour after the game. COTA will have results to report at the January 2020 meeting.
* COTA is partnering with United Way of Central Ohio and the Columbus City Attorney’s office on the Tax Time program in which free taxes preparation services are available for the public. In addition to promoting the program onboard the buses, COTA’s customer service center and administrative offices will host weekly sessions for the public to access these 1-on-1 services in downtown Columbus.
  + COTA Plus in Grove City continues to see steady ridership gains, with an average of 62 rides per day in November. The goal by the end of the first year in July 2020 is to reach 115 daily trips. COTA is exploring several communities where COTA Plus might launch next year, totaling 3 pilots in 2020.
  + Kim Sharp recently joined COTA as the Senior Director of Planning and Scheduling. Kim was previously the Deputy Planning Director for the City of Westerville.
  + It was stated that an article in the paper discussed a $1 million transit study that’s being proposed for the northwest of Columbus. It was asked if COTA continually assesses changes in the region and why $1 million is being spent for consultants to do something that COTA usually does. Thea stated that consultants will be paid to do this because COTA does not do the level of study required to obtain a federal grant. COTA’s operating requirements exceed that capacity of being able to do the level studies required.

The money that was designated in the last round of the Transportation Improvement Program for COTA to do studies is dedicated to this.

**Monthly Report – Data & Mapping** –Aaron Schill, MORPC

* The Smart Region Task Force is getting close to wrapping up. This task force was created to develop a shared vision for what it means to be a smart region and provide guidance to local governments on how to adopt new transportation and other connected infrastructure technologies.
* Task Force members were asked to work on three deliverables over the course of two years. They are finishing up the second of those – the Smart Region Playbook which is a guide for staff and committees.
* Two more meetings are anticipated in January and February of next year. If there are any questions, feel free to reach out to Aaron.
* The Regional Data Advisory Committee is in the process of appointing new committee members and a new chair. There are a number of open seats so if there are suggestions for community members that might be interested, reach out to Aaron.

1. **Proposed Resolution T-16-2019 - Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program –** Ronni Nimps, MORPC

* Proposed Resolution T-16-19 will modify nine projects on the SFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with commitments totaling over $180 million. These changes are necessary to enable the projects to advance and to maintain fiscal constraint.
* Delaware County is requesting the addition of preliminary engineering funding for additional study of the proposed I-71 interchange at Big Walnut to the TIP.
  + ODOT District 6 has requested the following additions and modifications to the TIP:
    - * Addition of right-of-way funding for I-70 at I-270 (East Outerbelt), phase 1A of the Far East Freeway study.
      * Addition of construction funding for I-71 at I-270 (South Outerbelt).
      * Reduction of funding for the rehabilitation of I-71 from Broad Street to Long Street, phase 3B of Columbus Crossroads.
      * Increase of funding for the widening of I-70/I-71 in downtown Columbus, phase 4R of Columbus Crossroads.
  + Chair Girves asked for a motion to approve; Ira Weiss moved; Bill Allman seconded; and the motion carried.

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](http://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/112019_CAC_TAC_fiscalconstraint.pdf).

1. **2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) -** Nick Gill, MORPC
   * MORPC is starting outreach to communities and civic organizations. Staff is still in the process of developing an interest database and project list. Presentations will be done through February.
   * The MTP open house will be held on February 26, 2020.
   * Outside of transit projects, there are about $20 million worth of candidate projects that have been identified.
   * MORPC continues to work with COTA on the forecast of transit planning.
   * The public comment period will be open until April 3, 2020.
   * The plan will be presented to our board for adoption in May 2020.
   * Chair Girves asked if MORPC anticipates having the financial forecast available at the January meeting. Nick stated that full details, including cost associated with each project, will be available on our website before the next meeting.
2. **Information Items**

**Ohio Public Works Commission Infrastructure and Conservation Update -** Nathaniel Vogt, MORPC

* + The Ohio Public Works Commission Infrastructure and Conservation state capital improvement program was established to help local governments maintain roads, bridges, and water lines and is funded by a voter approved bond issue. Some programs specifically assist small government under 5000 population and provide emergency assistance. The Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) helps local governments with roads bridge improvement exclusively and it is funded through a penny a gallon gas tax.
  + The infrastructure operations programs operate on manual cycles called *rounds*. We are nearing end of round 34 for the infrastructure programs. For this round, we have $28 million in grants and loans available for 2020 and 2021.
  + Thirty-one applications were received in September for a variety of local infrastructure projects on the list. They are asking for $42 million and assistance, which is less than half of the total cost. The integrating committee has begun preparing project agreements and getting things in place so funds can be available by July 2020.
  + The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund helps communities to preserve open spaces, sensitive ecological areas and stream corridors. The state Legislature established 19 districts in the state to enable the decision making these funding programs to occur. Each district has a public Works Integrated Committee to oversee the skip and LTIP application processes and a Natural Resources Assistance Council or in a rank to oversee the cleanup process.

[The presentation can be found by clicking here.](https://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/1.-OPWC-Update-for-CAC-TAC-12-2019.pdf)

**Regional Housing Strategy Update** – Jennifer Noll, MORPC

* + The region continues to grow with up to 2.4 million residents today. We don’t have enough housing to accommodate the diverse trends we’re seeing in terms of market preferences and growth.
  + Several studies have been done over the years, bringing the same conclusion; we simply do not have enough housing for existing residents and going forward for the next decades to accommodate our growth. The largest gap is among low income households, who depend on the rental market.
  + Government and private sectors are launching the Regional Housing Strategy to look to the current conditions within our region’s housing market and understand how to develop a strategy that will deliver clear direction for us in terms of policy and investment strategy.
  + A consulting team, Enterprise Community Partners, has been selected to work with MORPC to carry out the regional housing strategy.
  + The plan will be opened statewide for public comment next year.
  + Len Fisher asked if COTA is a sponsor and if, after the strategy, developers and landlords will be asked to sign the strategy. Jennifer stated that while we have not discussed that as part of the strategy, we do have developers that serve on the advisory board and are helping to guide the projects. Landlords will be a focus of the focus group conversations.

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](http://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2.-CAC-_-Regional-Housing.pdf).

**Technical Assistance Program Selected Communities**- Stephen Patchan, MORPC

* + - This program, as part of the insight2050, was designed to encourage walkable neighborhoods, mixed use environments, mixed age and mixed income communities, smaller residences, and transportation choices.
    - Objectives of the program are to increase multimodal options, improve mobility, accessibility and safety, increase connectivity assets, areas of investments and underutilized properties, and prepare communities for emerging technology.
    - Five projects are planned:
      * Hilliard - Cemetery Road conceptual development framework project
      * Jefferson Township - Blackbook Station conceptual development framework
      * Westerville - Cleveland Ave corridor project to look at high capacity and high capacity transit and land use impacts
      * Franklin County – Developing a Complete Streets toolkit.
      * City of Columbus – Doing a speed management framework project to look at some risk analysis. More information will be provided on this at a later date.

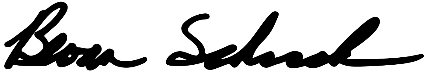
1. **Other Business**

**Community Advisory Committee Organizational Update**

* Details of the Community Advisory Committee organizational update can be found in Appendix A.
  + The Chair congratulated Ronni Nimps on her new role at the Franklin County Engineers Office, where she will be working on the Complete Streets initiative.

1. **Adjourn**

Chair Girves asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.; Ira Weiss moved; Bill Allman seconded; and the motion carried.

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Bevan Schneck, Secretary

**Community Advisory Committee**