



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

CORPO COMMITTEE MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
Scioto CONFERENCE ROOM

06/18/2018
Time 2:00 – 3:30pm

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – CORPO Chair Commissioner Steve Stolte
(Roster Enclosed)
2. **Approval of January 8, 2018 CORPO Meeting Minutes** *(Enclosed)*
3. **Approval of May 24, 2018 CORPO Conference Call Actions and Meeting Minutes** *(Enclosed)*
4. **Proposed Resolution 2-18: “Adopting the 2018-2040 CORPO Transportation Plan”** - Mike Borger
5. **Fiscal Year 2019 Dues Discussion** – Thea Walsh
6. **Overview of Fiscal Year 2019 Activities** – Mike Borger
7. **Other Business**

**PLEASE NOTIFY MIKE BORGER AT 614-233-4155 OR mborger@morpc.org
TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR
IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

The next CORPO COMMITTEE Meeting is
TBD
*111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Scioto CONFERENCE ROOM*

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William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Rory McGuiness
Chair

Karen J. Angelou
Vice Chair

Erik J. Janas
Secretary

CORPO Meeting Roster – June 18th 2018

CORPO Officers

Steve Stolte, Union County Commissioner and CORPO Chair
Brian Stewart, Pickaway County Commissioner and CORPO Vice Chair
Jeffrey Harris, President, Area Development Foundation of Knox County, CORPO Secretary

Confirmed CORPO Committee Members

Terry Emery, City of Marysville City Manager
Jeff Stauch, Union County Engineer
Teresa Bemiller, Knox County Commissioner
Cameron Keaton, Knox County Engineer
Brian Ball, City of Mount Vernon Engineer
Bryan Dhume, Madison County Engineer
Mark Forest, Madison County Commissioner
Joe Mosier, Madison County Safety Service Director
Chris Mullins, Pickaway County Engineer
Shane Farnsworth, Morrow County Development Director
Bart Dennison, Morrow County Engineer
Tom Whiston, Morrow County Commissioner
Steve Davis, Fairfield County Commissioner
Dave Levacy, Fairfield County Commissioner
Ira Weiss, Fairfield Heritage Trail Association and Fairfield County Planning Commission
Brad Irons, Marion County Engineer
Scott Schertzer, Mayor, City of Marion
Jim Bishoff, Director, Marion County Public Works

Identified Alternates

Loudan Klein, Director, Fairfield County Planning Commission
Bill Narducci, Union County Assistant Engineer
Roger Reed, Knox County Commissioner
Pat Closser, Mayor, City of London
Jay Wippel, Pickaway County Commissioner
Anthony Neff, Pickaway County Deputy County Engineer
Phil Wright, Marion County Deputy Engineer
Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic Development Director

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**Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)
Committee Meeting
January 8, 2018
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting Summary**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio

Attendance

Brian Davidson, ODOT D6
Mark Forrest, Madison Co.
Andrew Shepler, ODOT
Steve Stolte, Union Co.

Bryan Dhume, Madison Co.
Loudan Klein, Fairfield Co.
Rick Szabrak, Fairfield Co.
Ira Weiss, FCRPC

Matt Dietrich, ORDC
Ron , ODOT D6
Jeff Stauch, Union Co.

By Phone

Brian Ball, Knox Co.
Chris Mullins, Pickaway Co.
Pickaway Co.

Jim Bischoff, Marion
Jeff Perry, Knox Co.
Ty Thompson, ODOT D5

Terry Emery, Marysville
Brian Stewart,

MORPC Staff

Mike Borger
Nathaniel Vogt

Nick Gill
Thea Walsh

Nathaniel Kaelin

1. **Welcome & Introductions** Steve Stolte, Union County Commissioner & CORPO Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Thea Walsh, Director of Transportation Systems and Funding, asked everyone calling in to the meeting to introduce themselves.
2. **May 2017 CORPO Meetings Minutes** Steve Stolte, Union County Commissioner & CORPO Chair, asked the CORPO Committee to vote on the minutes from the previous CORPO meeting (May 15, 2017). Brian Dhume moved and Ira Weiss seconded the motion, and they were adopted (a quorum was present).
3. **CORPO Background & Timeline** Mike Borger, Senior Planner, gave a brief background update on the CORPO Committee. There are five RTPOs in the State of Ohio, and a sixth is scheduled. This committee is operating as a Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and is constructing a long-range transportation plan. The goal is still to have a long-range transportation plan by summer of 2018. The plan is still led by the member counties and their subcommittees. Once the plan is complete, it will be submitted to ODOT in order to obtain RTPO status and future funding. After we become an RTPO we will begin our own Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

So far everyone is signed and on board. We have received our funding from ODOT and set up this committee, developed a public involvement plan, and have held three CORPO committee meetings and established bylaws. Subcommittees were formed and have held multiple meetings.

For the transportation plan, we put together our goals and objectives, which were adopted. Existing conditions were developed and are out to the subcommittees for review. We will also send out the additions that were made for comment, with the future conditions that we are now developing.

After that we began the analysis and project selection piece.

Borger displayed the revised timeline. Some of the goals have changed. The highlighted language in the timeline should be coordinated by the subcommittees. Then we will begin the comment review period for the plan, adopt it and send to ODOT by June 2018.

4. **CORPO Transportation Plan** Borger said that the committee had seen this information before – scope of work, goals & objectives, inventory of existing conditions, projections & future conditions, strategy & development (project selection), analysis & prioritization of projects, and recommendations. Following are the parameters on which the plan will be based. They address aging infrastructure, economic vitality & safety, economic vitality & efficiency, rural & urban transition, corridors: comprehensive approach, engage & convene partners & voices, and multipurpose corridor planning with utilities, water, broadband, etc.

Borger said that he will send out the future population and employment projections. and later he will send the 2040 traffic projections. Then we will move into the strategy and development phase and staff will begin identifying projects. County subcommittees will review the maps, and hopefully that information will go out for public comment by February or March. Next will be analysis and prioritization, followed by recommendations and submittal.

Walsh asked if MORPC will do the coordination during the analysis and prioritization period with MPO communities on cross-over projects. Borger said that it will.

5. **Rural Transportation Planning ODOT Update** Andrew Shepler, ODOT, said that there was an Ohio RTPO newsletter that gave an overview of the program and an update on each of the different agencies participating. He thanked everyone who is participating in this project.

Walsh asked Shepler to elaborate on ODOT's plans are for the future of rural planning. Shepler said that ultimately ODOT's goal is to cover the entire state with some kind of regional planning RTPO or MPO. Walsh added that there is interest from other MPOs to do what MORPC is doing.

Jeff Perry from Knox Co. said that NOACA asked Knox Co. to tell them how the rural focus is taking on the CORPO approach. Stolte asked if it looked like an area up there looked like it would pull together to create an RPO. Perry said he thought so, but said that we are in better shape, since NOACA has many overlapping jurisdictions.

Walsh wanted to know how ODOT Districts 5 and 6 planned to work with us. She wanted to ensure that we are creating the opportunity for the district to participate in the planning process. Brian Davidson, ODOT D6, said that his district gives support in any way it can. It does reviews in-house for any transportation needs that LUC has and would be happy to do the same for CORPO. Ty Thompson, D5, said that D5 shares a lot of the same information that it creates on its planning side.

Walsh said that ODOT is talking about some transit districts, and these leave out one of the CORPO counties in that central district (Know County). ODOT is now taking public comments on this, and we are asking that ODOT include CORPO in one transit district for the state, as part of the comments coming from MORPC.

Walsh asked Shepler about funding. Perry said that his county would support ODOT's making sure that it is aligned... (could not understand the rest of what he said). Shepler said that once the plan is completed ODOT has ___ intention of offering funding to implement the plan. There are examples in the newsletter of how the existing _____ have implemented the plan. Walsh said it seems that we can help our communities go after capital, which is what some of the other RTPOs have done. She felt that this was a great starting point for the RTPOs. ODOT, by knowing about what is going on with the RTPOs, can be in a better position to help with federal funding applications, etc.

6. **Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)** *Nathaniel Kaelin, Program Manager*, explained that this is a separate initiative from the RPO efforts, but there is some overlap. This was an initiative of Columbus2020 and MORPC to develop and maintain a list of regionally significant, critical infrastructure projects that will advance economic and community development and growth.

The CORPO activities are long-term planning activities and are transportation-focused. With Competitive Advantage, we are looking at more shorter term priorities that are closer to funding, so we are asking members to prioritize projects that were ready to go to legislators or funding agencies. We are also looking at projects that are broader than just transportation, such as water and sewer, energy systems, infrastructure planning, fiber and data-type projects. A good diverse mix of projects was submitted.

We invited 30 counties to participate. Ten counties were able to identify projects (46 projects). We had asked for 3 – 5 per county and ended up with 3 – 7 per county. Only 64 percent of the projects were transportation-related. We are planning to go through the list-making process as an update next fall, getting ready for new legislative sessions.

We do have an interactive web map that contains all the projects. A few projects from RPO counties (Madison, Knox & Fairfield) we're still adding. They will all be on the map by the end of January. The interactive map is available at MORPC.org/CAP. That page will be dynamic, so if there are projects that a county would want to add or subtract or include more information, we will continue to update it. They need to be on the map by the end of January so MORPC can take these projects to DC in early February and is planning to take these projects. A project profile sheet has been created for each project, and they will also be linked from the website. We will put together a sheet for every congressional district. MORPC's Data and Mapping team is finalizing a one-page summary for each county. Kaelin thanked those who assisted him with this.

We are now moving toward the process of getting some of these projects off the ground. In addition to advocacy opportunities, we will also be sharing the list with the Columbus Region Coalition (CRC) and other groups. We want to be helpful with technical assistance, so we have been sharing funding sources and helping to coordinate some grant applications. MORPC staff is available for any assistance.

7. **News/Funding/ORDC** *Nathaniel Vogt, TIP & Funding Manager, and Matt Dietrich, ORDC*
Nathaniel Vogt spoke about ODOT's local programs. ODOT opened applications for some local programs on January 1, 2018, and solicitation is out for three of those programs: small cities, local bridge program, and transportation alternatives program. There are 54 qualifying small cities around the state – 4 in the CORPO area – Circleville, London, Marysville, and Mt. Vernon. This is an opportunity for these areas to obtain federal transportation funding for various transportation projects in those cities.

The local bridge program has certain qualifications as far as which bridges are eligible. Using the bridge data, target bridges are identified, and there is one in the CORPO area, which is 4th Street in Marysville.

The transportation alternatives program eligible activities are bike and pedestrian projects and facilities, as well as enhancements to streetscapes and some other types of transportation-related activities. The first deadline coming up is a letter of interest for the transportation alternatives program. Preliminary applications are due at the end of January 2018. Final applications for all three of these programs are due at the end of March.

Walsh added that MORPC staff is happy to assist on any of these proposals.

Walsh said that the reason ORDC was invited to the meeting was to see if we could incorporate railroad planning, specifically crossings, into our planning products, and help ORDC go after funding.

Matt Dietrich explained that the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) is an independent commission within ODOT and was created in 1994. ORDC's mission is to plan, promote, and implement the improved movement of goods and people faster and safer on a rail transportation network connecting Ohio to the nation and the world.

ORDC is fourth in the country in rail miles and first in rail concentration (miles of rail per square mile). There are about 5,800 public at-grade crossings. Rail shipped 134.8 million tons into and out of Ohio in 2014 (7.5 million trucks); and 184.4 million tons were shipped through Ohio by rail in 2014 (10.2 million trucks). ORDC is not able to help with private rail crossings because the funding is federal.

ORDC manages all the railroad-roadway coordination for ODOT projects. This includes grade separations and paving projects that go to or cross a rail line. ORDC spends time building relationships with railroads, and ORDC is willing to share that information with the local highway authorities as they do their projects. ORDC also provides direct freight rail project assistance.

ORDC also has a revolving loan program (about \$3M grant/\$3M loan). Transactions range from \$50,000 to \$600,000.

ORDC administers all of the Federal Highway Safety funds for railroad grade crossing safety (Section 130). ODOT historically has allocated about twice what is required under Section 130 (about \$15M/year). ORDC works with PUCO to identify those projects. Following this meeting ORDC will meet with MORPC to obtain a list of all the grade crossings and where they rank in the hazard index. ORDC will share this information with CORPO. Dietrich urged members to reach out to development agencies for other funding.

Dietrich said that there is a mandated state rail plan that is updated every four to five years. We are now in the public comment period. There will be a public session at 10 a.m. on January 16, 2018 at ODOT. ORDC is holding stakeholder meetings rather than regional meetings to reach out to those groups.

Dietrich emphasized that every crossing has a blue sign – called an emergency notification sign (ENS). This was mandated by the Federal Railroad Administration after it conducted a study. If there is any type of emergency at any railroad crossing, it indicates the number that should be called.

Dietrich displayed ORDC contacts.

Walsh added that she has helped to write grants to foundations that match up with the private sector's contribution at railroad crossings. She also informed the members about Operation Lifesaver. She said that MORPC could also help write those grants.

8. **Other Business** Borger said he would like to have one meeting after this one. He will also try to get out to talk to subcommittees. Gill suggested that the meeting be held in June. Borger suggested 2 p.m. on Monday, June 18, 2018, which seemed to be good with everyone.

Vogt said that ODOT also has a highway safety program that is available for application by local governments. Applications are accepted twice a year – April and September).

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**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
CORPO Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: **May 24, 2018**
Time: **2:00 to 2:30 p.m.**
Location: **Conference Call**

Members Present

Bryan Dhume	Rick Szabrak
Chris Mullins	Jeff Stauch
Loudan Klein	Steve Stolte

MORPC Staff Present

Thea Walsh	Nathaniel Vogt
Nick Gill	Mike Borger

Guests Present

N/A

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Chair Steve Stolte.

Planning Work Program (PWP) Review and Adoption

Mike Borger explained that at the beginning of each fiscal year RTPOs and MPOs in the State of Ohio are required to develop a Planning Work Program (PWP), which describes the work to be undertaken by the agency related to the RTPO over the next fiscal year. There is a standard template, and MORPC staff filled in the required information, added work elements, and detailed as much as we could of what we plan to do. The PWP must be approved by the CORPO committee before its submission to ODOT in May. The Transportation Plan will be submitted to ODOT by the end of June. Borger asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Stolte said that as a point of clarification, Borger mentioned that this is a template that staff fills in. Borger said that it was modeled after the one by the MPO because it will be required every fiscal year. Stolte asked if it would be the same year to year with changes in the work to be performed. Borger replied "yes."

A question was posed as to what level of work needs to be shared typically. Maintenance or new construction items or a mix of both?

Borger replied that the PWP it is just a broad description and outline of the work that we will do in the next round of CORPO. He wanted to know if the person was asking about the Transportation Plan – the project lists. Thea Walsh added that the Transportation Plan will be a mix of maintenance and new items. The PWP is just a requirement MORPC must meet in order to do the work we do and to get the grant we get to do the work for CORPO.

Stolte asked what the total amount of dollars that was included in this plan. Walsh replied that annually it is \$178,609. Stolte asked if most of that came from federal dollars. Borger replied that it is 80 percent FHWA, 10 percent ODOT, and the other 10 percent is a local match. Borger noted that the information was available on Appendix C.

One member asked if it were an in-kind match from MORPC. Walsh said it was not. It is a cash match of local dollars. She said that the last two years we have been using a fund that is local dollars we had received through another program, but in the future it would be paid by the county. She said she will discuss this with each county and broadly in the next meeting.

Another question was that by approving the PWP are the members committing these local funds here, or is that a discussion for later. Walsh said that by approving the PWP the committee is approving MORPC's actions to receive this grant. She said that anyone who does not join CORPO this year is a risk to MORPC.

Stolte said that it was his understanding that if all seven counties said they do not wish to provide any money for this they were not obligating themselves to do that by this action.

Bryan Dhume moved to approve the PWP as presented to the committee; seconded by Jeff Stauch. The motion carried unanimously.

Status Update on Draft CORPO Transportation Plan

Borger said that so far the Transportation Plan is about 300 pages. He is adding the final touches today and tomorrow, then turning it over for review. Committee members should have draft copies by the end of May. CORPO is also doing its own open house and will establish a public comment period. He asked that members share this information with the subcommittees and the public. If there are no major comments or changes, we hope to get this submitted to ODOT on time. He said that all projects submitted by the counties were incorporated. If Borger did not receive projects from any counties, he used what he had with comments from the engineers. The Transportation Plan will be added to MORPC's website for review, along with information on the open house. A press release will be done Friday or Monday, directing people to the website and to the open house event.

Stolte said that the next in-person meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 2 p.m. at MORPC. The intent is that at the June 18 meeting the members will vote to approve the Transportation Plan. If approved, the plan will be submitted to ODOT. Stolte asked if the plan will be approved by ODOT. Borger said he thinks it goes to the Governor's office for approval. After approval, we will have the RTPD designation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

Michael Borger
CORPO Committee

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RESOLUTION 2 -18

“ADOPTING THE CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPO) 2018 -2040 TRANSPORTATION PLAN”

WHEREAS, the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) is recognized as a Regional Planning Organization (RPO) by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and in cooperation with locally elected officials for Knox, Fairfield, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties; and

WHEREAS, the CORPO has underwent a transportation planning process to develop a 2018-2040 Transportation Plan for the seven county area, and

WHEREAS, other plans including local land use plans, local capital improvement plans, transit agency plans, regional plans, and statewide plans were consulted and incorporated into the 2018-2040 CORPO Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes existing and future conditions information such as population, employment, crash data, pavement and bridge conditions, crash data, traffic volumes and congestion, transit service, and bike and pedestrian; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes strategies and projects to maintain, improve and expand the transportation system including discussion of funding sources to implement the Plan; and

WHEREAS, solicitation of citizens' comments on the 2018-2040 CORPO Transportation Plan was made by following CORPO's adopted Public Involvement Plan through advertisements in the local media, an open house meeting, the CORPO Committee and Member County Subcommittee meetings, and on MORPC's website; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Plan will included continued coordination among the local agencies, ODOT, transit agencies and others to advance the strategies and projects in the plan including development of a 2020-2023 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) which identifies the priority projects to move forward in the near term; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE:

- Section 1. That it adopts the 2018-2040 CORPO Transportation Plan for the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization's seven county study area which includes: for Knox, Fairfield, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties dated June, 18th 2018, including its appendices.
- Section 2. That CORPO will develop a 2020-2023 RTIP in accordance to ODOT's State Transportation Improvement Program development schedule which will serve to identify the near term priorities for CORPO.
- Section 3. That this resolution be forwarded to ODOT as evidence of acceptance of the 2018-2040 CORPO Transportation Plan.
- Section 4. That this committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Commissioner Steve Stolte, Chair
CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING COMMISISON

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**Central Ohio Rural
Planning Organization**

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June 13, 2018

The Hon. Elaine Chao
Secretary
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the Ohio Rural/Urban Area Low- and No-Emission Transit Project

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Central Ohio Rural Transportation Planning Organization (CORPO) is pleased to support the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in its application to the Federal Transit Administration for funding in support of the Ohio Rural/Urban Area Low- and No-Emission Transit Project.

CORPO is the rural planning organization (RPO) responsible for coordinating and providing transportation planning products and services for seven rural counties in Central Ohio (Fairfield, Pickaway, Madison, Union, Marion, Morrow and Knox).

In the proposed project, a mix of five rural and large urban transit agencies will collectively deploy approximately three dozen low- and no-emission transit vehicles, including battery-electric shuttles and a variety of shuttles, minivans, and buses powered by clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG). Importantly, the project will also include deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and upgrades to transit properties to support operation of CNG buses.

To complete this groundbreaking project, ODOT has partnered with two rural transit agencies—Knox Area Transit and South East Area Transit—one small urban transit agency, Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, and two large urban agencies, Central Ohio Transit Authority and Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA).

All of the proposed vehicles and infrastructure will showcase the commercial viability of low- and no-emission technologies for public transit. In fact, one of the partners—SARTA—will demonstrate four zero-emission shuttles at one of the region's most prominent destinations, the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. In the process, thousands of visitors will gain exposure to zero-emissions transportation technologies. Critically, ODOT and SARTA will showcase the shuttles to other Ohio transit properties, helping them to evaluate the zero-emissions solutions to their own transportation challenges.

Based on our review of this project, we strongly believe it to be consistent with local and regional planning documents, including the 2018 -2040 CORPO Long Range Transportation Plan, currently in draft form at: www.morpc.org/corpo.

Steve Skitsis
Chair

Bryan Stewart
Vice Chair

Jeffrey Harris
Sec. I



We strongly believe in the proposed project and its potential to deploy low- and no-emission transit vehicles—an explicit FTA program goal. Please give it every consideration in the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Stolte", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Commissioner Steve Stolte
CORPO Chair
CORPO / Union County Board of Commissioners

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