The Intercity Transportation Initiatives project explores options to better connect the Columbus Region with major metropolitan regions of the Midwest, including Chicago and Pittsburgh. A multi-phased planning effort will examine the feasibility for railroad technologies including hyperloop and traditional rail. The project builds on the Midwest Connect Hyperloop and Chicago-to-Columbus Passenger Rail efforts.

**Project Type:**
Strategic Planning

**Lead Agency:**
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)

**Project Contact:**
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**Partner Agencies:**
Columbus Partnership; JobsOhio; Ohio Department of Transportation; Ohio Rail Development Commission; multiple cities and counties; and numerous public and private partners along the corridor (e.g., business groups, local governments, regional planning agencies, etc.)

**Project Benefits**

- Maintains competitive infrastructure by exploring diverse transportation technologies for the region and state
- Adds value to the transportation system by creating additional transportation modes on a corridor without redundant highway or passenger rail facilities
- Creates opportunities to create a Midwest megaregion by linking major cities with intercity rail transportation
- Links major business, institutional, logistics, and sports destinations along the corridor
- Provides an opportunity to transform and improve the movement of freight and cargo

**Regional Significance**

Prioritized as a project of

Investments in new and existing rail infrastructure would accelerate regional and national intercity rail connections