



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
morpc.org

T. 614. 228.2663
TTY. 1.800.750.0750
info@morpc.org

NOTICE OF A MEETING

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021 at 9 a.m.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Members must be at the meeting in person to vote.

Or call in (audio only): [+1 614-362-3056, 176206188#](#)

Phone Conference ID: 176 206 188#

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions** – Cindi Fitzpatrick, Chair
- 9:02 a.m. Approval of Sept. 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Thea Ewing, MORPC
- Monthly Report – Data & Mapping/Planning & Sustainability – Kerstin Carr, MORPC
 - Population Estimates
 - RAPID 5
- 9:20 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
- 9:25 a.m. Informational Items**
- LinkUS Update – Zach Sunderland, COTA, and John Gardocki, MORPC
 - Transportation Review Advisory Council Final Project List – Dina López, MORPC
 - Complete Streets Policy Update – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC
 - Legislative Update – Joe Garrity, MORPC
- 9:55 a.m. Other Business**
- 10:00 a.m. Adjourn**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Grooms
Secretary

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 Attributable Funds Committee working group to review MORPC's policies for managing attributable funds will meet directly after the TAC meeting.

The next TAC meeting is
November 3, 2021, at 9 a.m.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



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Date: **September 1, 2021**
Time: **9 a.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members/Alternates Present

Mike Andrako
Mike Barker
Andrew Biesterveld
Barbara Cox
William Ferrigno

Cindi Fitzpatrick
Matt Huffman
Tiffany Jenkins
Alan Moran
Tim Nittle

Matthew Peoples
Scott Sanders
Letty Schamp
Denny Schooley
James Young

Members Viewing Online

Maria Cantrell
Brian Davidson
Morgan Kauffman
Josh Lockhart

Ryan Lowe
Velyjha Southern
Kevin Weaver

Guests Present

Quincy Howard
Rob James

Guests Viewing Online

Jen Alford
Fritz Crosier
Andrew Schepler

Kristin Studabaker
Megan Valentine
Ira Weiss

MORPC Staff

Lauren Cardoni
Thea Ewing
Mary Ann Frantz
John Gardocki
Ted Geer

Nick Gill
Thomas Graham
Ralonda Hampton
Stephen Patchan
Maria Schaper

Bevan Schneck
Nathaniel Vogt
Liz Whelan-Jackson

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Cindi Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes and August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Fitzpatrick asked for a motion to approve the June 2, 2021 and August 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Biesterveld moved; Ms. Schamp seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Thea Ewing, MORPC

- For the COTA and Delaware County Transit update, Ms. Ewing noted that the Cbus circulator was in the news and is not returning. She also noted that the downtown Greyhound property purchased by COTA still has Greyhound and others running buses out of the station. The Delaware City Flex Service has been doing well – especially with kids. Both COTA and DCT received federal and state funds adding projects that are included in Resolution T-7-21.
- Ms. Ewing said the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) had met and approved the annual draft list of projects to receive funding over the next four years. It includes more than \$292 million in new funding commitments. TRAC will vote on the final list at its September 22 meeting. The projects in Central Ohio were mentioned.
- Ms. Walsh said MORPC released the 2021 Call for Projects for 5310 Enhanced Mobility Funding for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities on August 16, 2021. A new online application tool was selected to be tested for this round of funding and future MORPC calls for projects. Applications are due September 20, 2021.
- Quincy Howard, President of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Columbus chapter, was introduced and gave a brief overview of the organization and its work. He mentioned that local agencies can send job posting and bid opportunities to info@comtocolumbus.org to be posted on COMTO's website.

Monthly Report – Planning & Sustainability – Stephen Patchan, MORPC

- Mr. Patchan told the committee to save the date of October 15 for MORPC's annual Summit on Sustainability. He also said registration was open for the September 21 Regional Transportation Safety Forum and highlighted some of the speakers.
- Current and upcoming public comment periods were highlighted for: Complete Streets Policy update with a public comment period through October 22 and adoption in November; Active Transportation Plan with a public comment period beginning November 1 and adoption in December; and Technical Assistance Program guidelines with a public comment period beginning November 1 and adoption in December.
- A Trail Town Program – through Central Ohio Greenways – RFP will soon be released to hire a consultant to develop a Trail Town toolkit that communities along the COG network can use to take advantage of economic development opportunities.

Monthly Report – Data & Mapping – Liz Whelan-Jackson, MORPC

- 2020 Census data became available in August, and MORPC made it available in an easy-to-access format on its open data site at morpc.org/data. It includes 2020 data, geography, and changes since 2010. The overall takeaway is that Central Ohio has grown, with an addition of nearly 240,000 people. It ranks 27th in population growth of the nearly 400 MSAs, and the region remains on track to reach 3 million people by 2050.
- MORPC will be developing its first population estimates based on the recent census for member dues in 2022. They will be distributed to local governments for review in September.

IV. Funding Programs

- Attributable Funds Project Status Update - Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - Mr. Graham said there were no significant changes from the previous month. He highlighted:
 - Delaware Signal Systems project receiving funding
 - Whitehall East Broad and Hamilton Road intersection, which had its final plans approved and is waiting for federal authorization
 - Updated construction timeline for Rickenbacker Mobility Center

V. Resolutions

- Resolution T-7-21 Amending the State Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - Mr. Graham noted that a revised version of the resolution was distributed to the committee that included six ODOT Transit Partnership awards.
 - The revised resolution brings a total to 12 projects totaling over \$369 million. Three projects are COTA projects, Delaware County transit has four projects, Etna Township has one project, and there are 5310 projects that slightly overlap with MORPC's metropolitan planning organization area. The Franklin County Transportation Improvement District project of 161 at Linworth Road was included for \$500,000 for preliminary engineering, as well as additional phases of ODOT District 6's 70/71 project and I-71 at Sunbury Parkway.
 - Mr. Schooley made a motion to adopt Resolution T-7-21; Mr. Peoples seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-8-21 Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2021 – Thea Ewing, MORPC
 - Ms. Ewing noted that MORPC must do a Planning Work Program annually that directs around \$6 million. The previous PWP work ended as of June 30, and it came in under budget in many cases. All the work was completed.
 - Mr. Ferrigno made a motion to adopt Resolution T-8-21; Mr. Barker seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-9-21 Amending the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Maria Schaper, MORPC
 - Ms. Schaper highlighted the Metropolitan Transportation Plan adopted in May 2020. Since then, the LinkUS Mobility Initiative corridors have advanced in planning activity. Bus Rapid Transit is the recommended mode for the corridors, and there are updated cost estimates. The resolution reflects this.
 - East Broad was recommended as a local preferred alternative, and the time frame of West Broad Street is being adjusted.
 - Projects must be in the MTP to be eligible for federal funding, so the MTP amendment shows the Federal Transit Administration that the region is supportive of the work.

- The amendment changes some time frames and makes no significant changes to fiscal resources. It had a public comment period throughout the month of August, and MORPC received 10 letters of support.
 - Ms. Schamp made a motion to adopt Resolution T-9-21; Mr. Young seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-10-21 Adopting the 2021 Public Participation Plan – Bevan Schneck, MORPC
 - Mr. Schneck said the committee received a presentation of the updated Public Participation Plan at the previous meeting and provided a brief recap of the plan update – including the changes to include new technologies and align the participation outreach to MORPC’s diversity and inclusion initiatives.
 - The plan underwent a 45-day public comment period and there were no comments received, so the plan had not changed since the previous meeting.
 - Mr. Peoples made a motion to adopt Resolution T-10-21; Mr. Biesterveld seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-11-21 Amending the SFY 2022 Planning Work Program – Nick Gill, MORPC
 - Mr. Gill said that funding for the SFY 2021 Planning Work Program was not all used, so MORPC is carrying some funding over into SFY 2022. The amendment covers additional money to be carried over that was not included when the 2022 PWP was prepared in April, and it better balances out the programs the money is going toward. This includes work to supplement the agency’s active transportation planning.
 - Ms. Schamp asked how the new census information plays into the agency’s modeling – and if past data has been examined to see if modeling in the past was accurate. Mr. Gill responded that there are always points of time when MORPC validates the regional model – especially when census results come out – and to make sure best practices are being included. Looking back at past models is not usually done because there is so much change in how the modeling is done. Ms. Schamp responded that it might be worthwhile to look back upon, especially with so much emphasis on the numbers when approving development projects. Mr. Gill said that the region is growing, but MORPC usually is not underpredicting in its modeling results.
 - Mr. Young made a motion to adopt Resolution T-11-21; Ms. Schamp seconded; and the motion passed.

VI. Informational Items

- Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program for 2021 – Ralonda Hampton, MORPC
 - Ms. Hampton said Title VI – Part of Civil Rights Act of 1964 – was one of the most significant laws because it related to discrimination in federally funded programs, as well as those that do not receive federal funding.

- The last update to MORPC's Title VI Plan was in the fall of 2018. A resolution will be presented in October to MORPC's Executive Committee and Commission.
- The updated plan includes 14 appendices that point to specific information. It also includes MORPC's non-discrimination complaint procedure, Limited English Proficiency Plan, and aspects related to MORPC staff, board diversity, minority populations, diversity spend, diversity training, and MORPC's weatherization program (i.e. who applies and receives the services).
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Ted Geer, MORPC
 - Mr. Geer said that CEDS is a regional economic development plan supported by a grant from US Economic Development Administration. It is a foundational piece of economic development planning, and it is needed to apply for Economic Development District status.
 - Central Ohio's strategy includes 11 counties. It aligns with regional goals, focuses on streamlined resources and building economic resilience, and allows for increased funding. Projects can receive funding from the federal government if they are aligned with the document.
 - The CEDS is being developed by a strategy committee that includes a variety of stakeholders, including the private sector.
 - It will be soon be out for a 30-day public comment period.

VII. Other Business

- There was no other business.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Thea J Ewing, Secretary



Metropolitan Transportation Organization Summary

September 2021

Transportation & Infrastructure Development

Thea Ewing, Director – twalsh@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- An MTP amendment was adopted during the September committee meetings. The amendment identified Bus Rapid Transit as the mode for three transit projects, added one new Bus Rapid Transit project, refined cost estimates for said Bus Rapid Transit projects, and adjusted the time frame of one project. All changes are reflective of and consistent with recently completed LinkUS Mobility Initiative corridor studies. Amending the MTP to be consistent with the results of the LinkUS studies shows regional support for these projects and enables COTA to move forward in engaging with FTA in a federal grants process.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services

Mobility Management

- MORPC staff continues the work for the ODOT HSTC Region 6 Coordinated plan, the Regional Mobility Plan. Goals and strategies have been drafted for Franklin, Delaware, Logan, and Union counties. This process is underway for the remaining five counties. Next steps will call for county partner review and county commissioner engagement.
- MORPC staff attended the Ohio Public Transit Association conference and the mobility management roundtable, meeting, and training. This provided a learning opportunity related to Medicaid, the regional coordinated plan process, and best practice sharing with other mobility managers.
- MORPC staff has been partnering with individuals in Union County to support their mobility management program and for stakeholder support in public transit. This work has involved the planning of a mobility workshop that is intended to highlight the benefit of mobility access for county residents and employees.
- MORPC staff continues to work with the ODOT Office of Transit on development work for Gohio Mobility, the statewide transportation search tool intended to support mobility management in Ohio. MORPC is assisting ODOT in understanding what steps need to be taken with data for the launch.
- MORPC is working with the ODOT Office of Transit and Ohio Association of Regional Councils on the development of an RFP for Gohio Commute and Gohio Mobility. The final draft is nearing development for posting.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- Call for Projects submission period ended September 20. MORPC received 17 applications totaling a request of \$2.4 million. Staff will work towards coming up with a

program of projects for the approximately \$1.4 million available through the federal allocation.

- Staff participated in an ODOT meeting to discuss the impact of the global pandemic on vehicle production. The state vehicle contract vendors announced that delivery of vehicles is not likely to occur until 2023. MORPC will offer current 5310 awardees the opportunity to cancel their deliveries and utilize the funding for other 5310 eligible uses or receive a refund of their 20% local match.

Gohio Commute

- City of Grove City and MORPC staff hosted a webinar called, “Transportation – The Great Equalizer” to educate companies in Grove City about the importance of commuter benefit programs and the modes of transportation available to them. Staff from MORPC, COTA, Commute with Enterprise, and Share Mobility participated in this webinar.
- MORPC staff met with the Central Ohio Mode Shift Coalition, a group of Central Ohio mobility champions for transportation demand management initiatives, in Dublin, OH for a bike ride and meeting to share program updates and understand mobility initiatives that may be replicated in other communities.
- MORPC staff attended the Ohio Public Transit Association conference to share and learn best practices for supporting public transit use and partnerships.

Transportation Planning Activities

US 23 Connect Study

- MORPC staff supported ODOT in refining the Purpose and Need statement for the study, as well as develop other materials in preparation for Phase 2 of stakeholder and public engagement activities, set to begin in October.

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- MORPC hosted a LinkUS Multijurisdictional Workshop on September 15, introducing the region to the draft priority network elements that include bikeways, greenways, sidewalks, roadways, and transit initiatives. Meetings will occur quarterly to assist in the development of the network strategy and funding initiative.
- MORPC and ODOT started to meet with the corridor consultants and COTA to discuss the traffic analysis that will need to occur as part of the FTA CIG program.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

- County-level subcommittee meetings were held the week of September 13.
- CORPO staff presented the draft Public Participation Plan and opened a public comment period on September 27.
- CORPO staff presented the draft CORPO-dedicated Funds Policy and opened a public comment period on September 27.

Infrastructure Funding

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- The Attributable Funds Committee met at the beginning of September to brainstorm potential revisions to the Policies for Managing MORPC-attributable Funds. The AFC

decided to form a working group to further analyze the policies, and staff prepared potential revisions and discussion points that the working group discussed on September 22. Staff continues to work on potential revisions to the policies and coordinate with the AFC throughout this process.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- Applicants in Franklin County (District 3) submitted 23 applications requesting \$35 million in SCIP/LTIP funding for the year beginning July 1, 2022. Approximately \$27 million is available. The team is reviewing and scoring applications. The Public Works Integrating Committee's (PWIC) next meeting is on November 19.
- Applications for District 17 (includes Delaware, Licking and Fairfield counties) are due on November 5, 2021.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- Staff shared the draft project list with stakeholders and committee members and provided notification of the public comment period, which ended on September 17.
- The TRAC met on September 22 to vote on the final list of projects to be awarded funding. Staff continues to communicate key points around these funding decisions.

Federal Competitive Programs

- The federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced \$3 billion of mostly competitive grant funding opportunities to enable continued economic recovery. There are multiple regional applications being considered, and MORPC is providing capacity, technical assistance, and planning services to foster highly competitive applications.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

- CAP continues to be a critical resource for state and federal elected officials as they craft infrastructure funding legislation. Multiple projects on the CAP list have been included on federal member directed spending requests and state capital spending requests.

Data & Mapping

Increase Efficiencies of Internal Data Systems

Mid-Ohio Open Data site (MOOD): Staff continues to maintain and add data to the MOOD site. (www.morpc.org/data)

Update and Maintain Data Sets to Support Transportation Planning Efforts

Franklin County LBRS: Staff continues regular monitoring and maintenance of the LBRS data.
COVID-19 Resource Hub: Staff added updates to the Resource Hub (www.morpc.org/covid19), including vaccination rates, re-opening policies, changes to transit service, and other timely items. MORPC released the Central Ohio COVID-19 Policy Briefs earlier in 2021 (www.morpc.org/covid19policybriefs)
Regional Housing Strategy: Staff recently created a Metrics Dashboard designed to track progress across key high-level housing metrics in the region. (www.morpc.org/rhs/metrics-dashboard).

Promote Data Sharing Among Data Providers

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

The RDAC met on September 7 to discuss the creation, staffing, and membership of new working groups (Local Government Resources, Partnerships & Capacity Building, Broadband & Digital Equity), current working group reports, and updates regarding the Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG) and Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG).

- Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit Working Group: At the July 20 meeting, members agreed to present preliminary results of the Data Policy Survey to RDAC. The working group will meet again in October.
- Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy Working Group: Members met on September 8 to discuss strategy for working with local prospective partners. The group will meet again on October 1 to discuss the implementation of the strategy, with a November 5 target date set to meet with prospective partners.
- Central Ohio GIS User Group: Members met in a hybrid format on September 2, to hear presentations regarding ArcGIS Velocity, ArcGIS Image for ArcGIS Online, and the Ohio Food Systems Map. Members will gather again for a hybrid meeting on November 17, which is International GIS Day.
- Regional Information & Data Group: Members will meet on November 4; agenda to be announced soon. The RIDG Steering Committee will meet on October 13 to discuss the structure and topics for the November 3 RIDG meeting.

Transportation & Sustainability

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): The GIS team continues their review of existing land use at the parcel level for the 2024 MTP. Work on this project includes updating the list of local Comprehensive Plans to use in the updated MTP land use model. The GIS team has also been assisting transportation staff with the LinkUs portion of the MTP amendment. The data team is working on building permit collection, input, and analysis for the 2024 MTP.
- Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA): The data team continued its work on metrics for the RSA, including data collection and target setting. Final metrics were presented to and approved by the Sustainability Advisory Committee in September.
- ESRI Urban: Staff continues working with partners, other agencies, and ESRI to gather data for use with the new ESRI ArcGIS Urban program.
- National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP): The data team and OSU CURA staff are preparing the application for MORPC's membership in the 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 CURA will partner in this membership.

Coordinate with U.S. Census

- Outreach: Staff provided Census updates or presentations at all recent User Group and committee/board meetings. Data Manager Liz Whelan-Jackson moderated a panel discussion on data privacy in Central Ohio and interviewed with Columbus Underground regarding the 2020 Census and growth in Central Ohio, both on August 27.

Provide GIS and Technical Assistance to Transportation Programs

- Traffic Counts / Traffic Impact Study: The GIS team is working to provide GIS files and traffic counts to support the Traffic Impact Study.
- Maps / Reports: The GIS team continues to support transportation staff by supplying requested maps/reports – PWC, Franklin County Transportation Improvement District, CORPO, Commuter, Union County Micro-Mobility, Gohio Sustainable Transportation Recommendation Report, Mobility Maps, and many others.

Prepare Annual Estimates of Population and Employment at the County and Sub-County Levels

- Population Estimates: The data team is finalizing a data release schedule for 2020 Census-based MORPC member population estimates and is evaluating 2020 Census redistricting data to understand regional growth trends as well as impacts on MORPC population work more broadly. Building permits from 50+ local permitting agencies have been collected and are being analyzed. The building permit data used to calculate population estimates will also be used to create a population dashboard.

Transform Raw Data into Useful Information, Suggest Conclusions, and Support Decision-Making

- Housing Development: Staff is assisting Logan County Economic Development staff to consume and use data to support their housing development goals.

Respond To and Document Requests

- Grants: Staff supplied data to other MORPC departments for an OPWC grant application.
- Staff updated Transportation Improvement District webmap with TID Program of Projects.
- Staff provided estimated dues for two prospective members.

Planning & Sustainability

Kerstin Carr, Director – kcarr@morpc.org

Active Transportation Planning

- Active Transportation Plan (ATP): MORPC team members continue to develop a story map and other materials as part of the Active Transportation Plan update. Drafts of these materials will be available for public review and comment in November.
- Complete Streets: The public comment period for the Complete Streets Policy update opened on September 1 and will remain open through October 22. Revisions will be made to the policy based on feedback received, and the policy will be presented to CAC, TAC, and the Transportation Policy Committee at November meetings for adoption.
- Active Transportation Committee (ATC): The final ATC meeting for 2021 will be held on Tuesday, October 19 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Agenda items will include an update on the MORPC Technical Assistance Program, the Complete Streets Policy, the Active Transportation Plan, and Central Ohio Greenways initiatives. The meeting will be held virtually.

- Outreach: Staff shared a newsletter with Active Transportation stakeholders that included links to new resources and webinars available throughout the month of September. This newsletter goes out every other month to provide important Active Transportation updates for the region.

[insight2050](#)

Technical Assistance Program (TAP): Most of the Cycle 1 projects are complete, with a few wrapping up final deliverables. All projects will be complete by the end of October. Staff is working to update the program guidelines to launch the next round of projects in early 2022. If your community is interested in applying for technical assistance, please contact lcardon@morpc.org for more information.

[Regional Housing Strategy \(RHS\)](#)

- We invite you to visit the updated RHS website at www.morpc.org/housingstrategy, where visitors will now find a link to the complete final report, access to past Speaker Series webinars, and an online resource hub.

[Transportation Safety](#)

The second annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum was held on September 21. More than 80 people from agencies around the region (and the state) joined us to hear about regional safety trends and learn from experts in the field. The entire event was recorded and will be shared with members once it is available.

[Committee Meetings](#)

- Staff attended the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) meeting on September 16. There have been 946 traffic fatalities throughout the state of Ohio so far this year, which is significantly higher than where we typically are YTD. A new smartphone app paid for with funding approved by the TRCC has been released to assist law enforcement with filling in crash reports in an effort to improve the accuracy and completion of those reports.
- Staff participated in the Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on September 2. Aggressive driving, speeding, and impaired driving continue to be issues.

[Sustainable2050](#)

- The Q3 Sustainable2050 member meeting was held on September 17. The MORPC team provided energy program highlights, including available SolSmart technical assistance and the September 30 Energy Aggregation Workshop. The MORPC Team presented updates on the draft tier status certification process with the newly adopted [Regional Sustainability Agenda](#). The spotlight topic for this meeting was sustainable mobility, with a presentation on the Active Transportation Plan and regional trails.
- Member Engagement: MORPC's technical assistance pilot program, in partnership with The Ohio State University's City and Regional Planning Sustainability Studio, kicked off work in August toward the creation of a sustainability plan for the City of Reynoldsburg. Another planning studio is working with City of Grandview Heights and Clinton Township on a project. We will continue to build and expand this coordination with OSU in the

future to serve project and technical assistance needs of OSU and Sustainable2050 members.

Greenways & Water Resources Program

Central Ohio Greenways Board (COG)

- Central Ohio Greenways Board (COG): The board met on September 25 and heard updates on partner projects, including LinkUS and RAPID 5. The board's working groups also provided updates:
- Marketing & Communications Working Group: The group is working with Experience Columbus to publicly release a passport to encourage people to check out trails and win prizes. The group will be advising the Trail Town Framework, a project aimed to support rural communities in developing trail connections and marketing efforts to encourage trail tourism and active transportation.
- Operations & Access Working Group: The group has developed a winter maintenance session to be presented at the September 29 COG Forum.
- Partnership Working Group: The Partnership Working Group-led Impact of Trails Report was recently received by the consultants. MORPC will publicly release the results of the project in October.
- Trail Development Working Group: The group is taking inventory on local trail plans and projects to develop a database to support potential multi-jurisdictional trail projects and grants.
- COG Forum: The next forum is scheduled for September 29 and will focus on RAPID 5, Trail Towns, and winter trail maintenance.

Sustaining Scioto Board

- The board met on August 25 with a presentation from the NOAA Climate Program Office on the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. The board also learned about the Central Ohio Blueways effort to designate recreational waterways and the opportunity of the Clean Ohio Fund.
- Agriculture and Rural Communities Outreach Team: The team met on September 16. Members were given an update on the Social Science Survey focused on improving outreach to both upstream and downstream partners around the topics of climate change, water, and land use.
- 208 Water Resource Planning: The Draft 208 Plan for Logan County has been completed. Informational and stakeholder meetings for Champaign County stakeholders is scheduled for mid-October.

Energy & Air Quality

- Energy & Air Quality Working Group: The Energy and Air Quality Working Group will meet on September 28 with a featured presentation from Third Sun Solar on the state of the solar industry in Ohio.
- Air Quality Network Sensor Subcommittee: Air quality monitors are being sited across Franklin County with emphasis on placement in ZIP codes with populations vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. Six out of twenty monitors have been placed. The monitors

will remain for a year to collect data on neighborhood-to-neighborhood variations in air pollution.

- Local Government Energy Partnership: MORPC is hosting the Energy Aggregation Workshop on September 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This meeting will be virtual. Speakers include Jon-Paul d'Aversa with UNPREDICTABLEcity, Erin Beck with City of Columbus, and Council Member David Robinson with City of Worthington. Registration is required and can be found [here](#). MORPC also continues to coordinate with UNPREDICTABLEcity to encourage SolSmart designation. Free technical assistance is available to MORPC members. The SolSmart designation results in a consistent and streamlined process for solar projects, and signals to the broader community that solar is welcomed. For more information contact Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer, at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

- Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC): The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) met on September 15 and heard updates from MORPC staff on the Summit on Sustainability and relevant policy work. The Regional Sustainability Agenda target-setting process is nearly complete, and staff will be revisiting two of the metrics to incorporate the Committee's input before finalizing.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- District 3 (Franklin County) has approximately \$3.1 million available for Round 16. There will be an Applicant Workshop on October 4 on topics related to the structure of District 3 Natural Resource Assistance Council, OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) new online WorksWise portal for submission. Details on how to join the Workshop can be found here <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund>.

Communications & Engagement

Niel Jurist, Director – njurist@morpc.org

News Releases

- [Central Ohio's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Available for Public Review](#)
- [Letter to the Editor: US House should pass infrastructure bill that will benefit all Ohioans](#)
- [New Public Participation Plan Adopted by MORPC](#)

MORPC in the News

- [Columbus Concerns with MORPC on their "Gohio Commute" Program](#)
- [Cities can play a key role in the transition to electric vehicles](#)
- [CMC Forum: LinkUS Columbus Mobility Initiative](#)
- [MORPC Matters: Complete Streets Policy promotes traffic safety](#)
- [MORPC Seeks Comments On New Regional Complete Streets Policy](#)
- [Experience Columbus Launches Outdoor Trails Pass](#)
- [Resurrecting the Railroad in Ohio](#)

Digital Content

- Digital/social media content for the month included: Commute Action Plan, CoGo, Public Participation Plan, Public Comment Period, LinkUS, COVID-19 Briefs, Central Ohio Greenways, Regional Mobility Plan (and survey), Bike Infrastructure, Air Quality Alerts, ODOT Safety, Gohio Commute, National Seat Check Saturday, Stormwater Awareness Week, CMC Forum (Building Inclusive Communities), Car Free Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, Summit Reminder, Child Passenger Safety Week, Letter to the Dispatch, CEDs, Complete Streets, and September 11th memorial.