Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 17, 2019
Time: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty St., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43215

**Members Present**
Jim Schimmer
Mike Compton
Jennifer Fish
Conor Willis
Justin Milam
Letty Schamp
Dan Sowry
Mike Shelton
Michelle Crandall

**MORPC Staff Present**
Kerstin Carr
Jon-Paul d’Aversa
Niel Jurist
Brandi Whetstone
Brooke White
Stephen Patchan
Melissa Vonstein
Tobi Otulana
Bevan Schneck

**Meeting Called to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 2:31 by Chair Jim Schimmer.

**Welcome and Introductions – Jim Schimmer:** Members provided brief updates during the introductions.

Thea Walsh, Director of Transportation & Infrastructure Development, updated the committee about an upcoming visit from the CEO of Virgin Hyperloop One in early August, with opportunities to meet the CEO as well as a demo of the pod at COSI. The CEO will also be featured in a CMC lunch forum on August 7.

**New Member Spotlight – Letty Schamp, Engineer, City of Hilliard:** Letty gave an overview of her background in engineering and her work with the City of Hilliard. She is focused on connecting livability with transportation, as well as active transportation and safety. She is also very focused on round-abouts and their ability to manage traffic while bringing other benefits like reduced emissions. She is the Chair of COG and believes in what trails can bring to region, including a positive impact on health, environment, and social equity. Hilliard also has an Environmental Sustainability Commission and they are creating a series of videos they will be putting out over time.

**Sustainable2050 Tier Status Certification – Jennifer Noll, Planning & Sustainability:** Franklin County’s tier status certification process highlights the collaboration with multiple entities within the county coming together. This submission represents the Commissioners,
Engineer’s Office and the Soil and Water Conservation District. So far 12 Sustainable2050 members have certified their tier status including Franklin County.

The presentation highlighted examples contributing to the overall score. Franklin County is the only county in the region to adopt a complete streets policy. EnergyWorks was highlighted as an innovative program and PNC Plaza an example of a success story locally in downtown Columbus. Franklin County also received the Bronze SolSmart designation, and is the first local government in the state of Ohio to receive this designation. The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department took actions to reduce the barriers to solar development. They received a score of 42 and is coming in at the Platinum level.

Michelle Crandall made a motion to approve Franklin County's platinum tier status designation. Mike Shelton seconded. The motion passed (Jim Schimmer abstained).

**Insight2050 Technical Assistance Program** – Stephen Patchan, MORPC:
Stephen presented an overview of the Insight2050 technical assistance program which is available to MORPC member governments in the MPO area. We are currently focused on promoting it now and the deadline for TAP proposals August 7. The projects will be competitively selected with an evaluation committee.

Objectives include increasing multi-modal transportation options, improving mobility and health, emerging technologies, and active transportation. Types of projects can include complete streets, shared mobility, and more. Curbside management is another focus area, especially the impacts from emerging technologies like autonomous vehicles. There will be a webinar with more information on July 24.

**Regional Sustainability Dashboard** – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC:
Brandi presented a brief update on the development of a Sustainability Dashboard in partnership with CURA at OSU, and the formation of a joint working group between RDAC and the SAC. This project ties into CURA's larger vision for a Sustainability Observatory to fulfill the role of a central data hub for sustainability indicators. The working group’s expertise will be leveraged to help guide the development of the sustainability dashboard, aligning it with the goals and objectives of the Regional Sustainability Agenda.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the metrics and the data sources, and identifying which ones to present to the working group for further guidance. Simultaneously, our partners at CURA have been hard at work creating a demo and shaping some basic formatting and functionality as a starting point. After the system development reaches a good point we will be engaging our working group in user testing, and working on communications and engagement strategies leading up to the launch in the spring of 2020.

**Policy Update** – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC:

House Bill 6:
MORPC provided three written opponent testimonies. The bill guts Ohio’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) from 12.5 percent renewables by 2027 to 8.5% by 2026. It also guts the state Energy Efficiency standards. Utilities were required to reduce energy use by 22% by 2027. They can abandon this standard once they reach 17.5%, a level most have already reached, and beyond that threshold the bill does not allow cost recovery for energy efficiency programs. Significant subsidies will be directed to First Energy Solutions nuclear plant and coal plants owned by Ohio Valley Electric Corporation. The only aspect of the bill that MORPC favored was an increase in LIHEAP funds.

Michelle Crandall asked about legislation to stop local governments in Ohio from taxing or banning plastic bags. Several local governments have approved bans on plastic bags including Bexley, Bowling Green, and Cuyahoga County. Staff will find out more information to share with the SAC.

**Summit on Sustainability – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC:**
Brandi gave an update on the Summit, including the breakout session topics, sponsorships, and what we need from the SAC to support the event. We would like to see good attendance, and will follow up with information that the SAC can share out through their networks such as social media, websites, newsletters, etc. to help promote the event.

**Working Group Reports –** See attached working group report document.

**Other Business:**

- The City of Columbus is hosting a Sustainable Steps Launch event on July 21 at noon, located at Land Grant in Franklinton.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m.
sustainable
2050
Central Ohio Communities
Working Toward a Better Future

The Columbus Foundation
PURPOSE

To certify the Tier Status of Franklin County

• Commissioners
  • Economic Development & Planning
  • Fleet Management
  • Public Facilities Management

• Engineer’s Office

• Soil & Water Conservation District

Tier Status Certification
Presented to Sustainability Advisory Committee
July 17, 2019
## Tier Status Designations

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Resolution authorizing the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy,
by the Franklin County Engineer’s Office (Engineer)

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Engineer recognizes the need
to accommodate all modes of transportation within the public right-of-
way, including travel by pedestrians, bicycles, motorists, and transit
users; and,

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Engineer seeks to meet the
transportation needs of all its citizens by providing street networks that
safely connect to all properties, creating a more livable and welcoming
community to all citizens, regardless of age or ability; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets reduce congestion by providing
safe travel choices that encourage non-motorized transportation options,
increasing the overall capacity of the transportation network as well as
decreasing consumer transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are typically designed to include
the following characteristics; wider sidewalks; pedestrian intersection
treatments; narrower streets in low-speed residential areas; pedestrian
refuge islands on moderate-speed arterial or collector streets; on-street
and/or off-street bicycle facilities; enhanced landscaping and streetscape
elements; more non-vehicular connections between the public right-of-
way and private property; and transit accommodations along key
corridors; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets support economic growth and
community stability by providing accessible and efficient connections
between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations by
improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout
communities; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are context sensitive, so that
the street design complements and enhances the surrounding land use
and community character; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Engineer recognizes the
importance of street infrastructure improvements and modifications such
as sidewalks, crosswalks, shared-use paths, bicycle lanes, signage and
accessible curb ramps that enable safe, convenient, and comfortable
commuting for all users; now, therefore,

• Objective: Encourage MORPC member communities to adopt
complete streets policies or policies that contain those elements.

• Eligible Activity: Complete Streets Policy
FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Objective: Reduce per capita energy consumption.
- Eligible Activity: EnergyWorks
• Objective: Reduce emissions to meet federal air quality standards.

• Eligible Activity: Incentivization of Alternative Transportation
• Objective: *Increase the number of local renewable energy projects and generating capacity.*

• Eligible Activity: Allow local renewable energy generation
FRANKLIN COUNTY

sustainable 2050

A Platinum-Rated Community
Working Toward a Better Future
## NEXT STEPS

<table>
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<th>TODAY</th>
<th>Request Committee approval of Tier Status certification</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>(pending approval) County recognized at Commission meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Next cohort of Tier Status certifications presented to SAC</td>
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Jennifer Noll
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Brandi Whetstone
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www.morpc.org/Sustainable2050
Sustainability Advisory Committee
July 17, 2019
TA Program Background

• Provide MORPC staff assistance or consultant services to advance the vision and goals of insight2050, MTP, and Regional Sustainability Agenda

• Competitive Application Process

• Pre-determined project scopes of work

• One year project footprints
2019 TA Program Objectives

• Increase multi-modal transportation options

• Enhance quality of life through improving mobility, accessibility, safety, and public health

• Improve connectivity to existing community assets and support reinvestment in underutilized properties

• Prepare for emerging transportation technologies
ELIGIBILITY

MORPC MPO
PROJECT TYPES

Complete Streets
First-Last Mile
Low-Impact Transportation
Curbside Management
Shared Mobility
Conceptual Development Framework
Other
Complete Streets

Complete Streets Policy development for creating roadways that are safe and comfortable for all modes and all users regardless of age or ability

First-Last Mile

Internal guidance for improving active transportation connectivity between transit routes and key destinations
Curbside Management

Guidance (internal or formal policy) for regulating curb space to balance priorities for mobility, accessibility, sustainability, and economic vitality

Low-Impact Transportation

Internal guidance for implementing a low-stress network for bikes, e-bikes, scooters, and other low-impact modes of transportation
Shared Mobility

Policy development guidance for shared forms of mobility such as bike shares, scooter shares, and car shares

Conceptual Development

Preliminary planning to establish a vision for strategic infill sites or Opportunity Zones
OTHER PROJECT TYPES

Intent to Apply:
• Summary of proposed project
• Scope or work
• Project timeline
• Anticipated staff hours
• Roles & responsibilities

Must submit online by AUGUST 7
COMPETITIVE APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA

Project Objectives

insight2050 Principles

Regional Collaboration

Local Commitment and Collaboration

Leveraging Investment

Equity Considerations

Required Documentation
Important Dates

Application opens: JULY 1, 2019

Informational webinar: JULY 24, 2019 at 10 AM

Intent to Apply deadline (Other Projects ONLY): AUGUST 7, 2019

Application closes: SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Awardees notified: DECEMBER 2019

Projects begin: JANUARY 2020
SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD UPDATE

Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD CONCEPT

• Dynamic, online version of the Regional Sustainability Agenda Report Card

• Updated as new data becomes available

• **Proof of concept**: Columbus Urban and Regional Information Observatory (CURIO)

• Live now at [curio.osu.edu](http://curio.osu.edu)
WORKING GROUP BETWEEN SAC AND RDAC

• Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
• Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
• Michelle Crandall, City of Dublin
• Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
• Glenn Taylor, COTA
• Charlie Burks, Columbus Metropolitan Library
• Rick Stein, Urban Decision Group
• Shoreh Elhami, City of Columbus
KEY COMPONENTS

Data identification and organization
System development
User testing
Communications & engagement

Launch
Spring 2020
NEXT STEPS

- Working group meeting
- Sept. SAC meeting
- Demo Summit on Sustainability
THANK YOU!

BRANDI WHETSTONE
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111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
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2019 Summit on Sustainability
LOGISTICS

• Date: Friday, October 11, 2019

• Time: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

• Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Energy
- Air quality
- Water
- Trails
- Policy
- Insight2050
- Corridor Concepts
- Active Transportation
- Data
- Local foods
- Social equity
- Materials Management
- Ohio EPA
## PRICE STRUCTURE

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SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

• Presenting Sponsor - $10,000
• Program Sponsor - $7,500
• Network Sponsor (No longer available) - $5,000
• Supporting Sponsor - $2,500
• Premier Table Sponsor - $2,000
• Morning Plenary Sponsor - $1,500
• Breakout Session Sponsor - $1,250
• Exhibitor - $500
SPONSORS TO DATE – THANK YOU!

- Columbia Gas of Ohio
- SWACO
- Franklin County Engineer’s Office
- COTA
- Columbus State Community College
- Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
- Murphy Epson
- Advanced Drainage Systems
- DR DAS
- Ramboll
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

• Promote the Summit: Social media, emails, newsletters, events, etc.
• Encourage your organization/business to Sponsor the Summit
• Register and attend!
• www.morpc.org/summit
THANK YOU!

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Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)
Next meeting: July 24th, 2019

Central Ohio Greenways Board:

The Central Ohio Greenways Board will meet on July 24th. The agenda items will focus on how the COG working group projects have been influenced by the recent Planning Study completed earlier this year. The purpose of the Planning Study was to set the stage for implementing the COG 700 Mile Trail Vision by offering recommendations to prepare for a large funding strategy. Major recommendations included prioritizing projects and aligning the mission to positive impacts linked to four pillars: Health, Economy, Environment, and Social Equity.

The Trail Development working group is beginning to prioritize the 500 miles of proposed trails through an effort that is expected to identify and rank logical trail projects based on objective data.

The Partnership working group is preparing to conduct an “Impact of Trails Study,” which will largely be funded through a Grant from the Columbus Foundation’s Green Funds program. The study will estimate the benefits of trails on the same four pillars (Health, Economy, Environment, and Equity) that the Prioritization Effort is considering. The goal of running these two projects in parallel is to link credible data to specific trail projects that will provide the greatest impact so that COG can reach out to potential public or private funders with a strong case for support for trail building in Central Ohio.

The Operations & Access working group is continuing to look at best practices for wayfinding on trails and plans to host a COG Board Member ride in September.

The Marketing & Communications working group continues to support COG advocates through a social media marketing effort. Since the beginning of 2019, COG’s Facebook page has already doubled its 2018 reach.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Dale Arnold)
Next meeting: July 23, 2019

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on May 26th, 2019. The Working Group discussed the barriers facing development of distributed renewable energy in Columbus and heard a presentation from Craig Foster with Energility entitled ‘Is It Possible to Implement Community Solar in Central Ohio?’ The second half of the meeting included an update from Ohio EPA, MORPC’s Director of Government Affairs, and from MORPC staff on the recently released Rickenbacker Area Study. At the next meeting, the Working Group will hear about the Ohio Environmental Council’s work in energy and air quality.
The Water Resources Working Group (WRWG) met on May 30th, where the group received a policy update at both the State and Federal levels; updates from partners in attendance; and participated in a workshop regarding the updates to the City of Columbus Stormwater Drainage Manual (SWDM). Jeff Cox and Matt Repasky covered major changes to the SWDM, provided a timeline of completion, and answered several questions from the group. The MORPC team also updated the group about plans for Riverfest, which took place in conjunction with the Arts Festival June 9th at Bicentennial Park. The June 8th Riverfest day was cancelled due to unsafe water conditions. However, June 9th was a successful event, with over 450 participants in one day.

The next working group meeting is July 25th, where the group will hear an update on the Sustaining Scioto Short Term Implementation Plan and on Water Quality Monitoring efforts in the region.

The Sustainable2050 membership held its Q2 meeting on June 12. The member roundtable theme focused on food waste. Kyle O’Keefe of SWACO presented an overview of the Central Ohio Food Waste Action Plan, then facilitated a discussion with members about initiating/maintaining a community food waste recycling program. The Member Spotlight featured remarks from newly certified Sustainable2050 members: the cities of Columbus, Westerville and Whitehall.

MORPC encourages members who have not yet certified their Tier Status to consider starting the process now to be certified at the September SAC/October Commission meetings. The MORPC team has adjusted the Tier Status workbook based on member feedback to facilitate the certification of associate members. We will be reaching out to associate members this summer to introduce the changes and assist them to complete the certification process. All members are encouraged to contact Jennifer Noll inoll@morpc.org for assistance to complete the Tier Status workbook.