NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
+1 614-362-3056 United States, Columbus (Toll)
(888) 595-9475 United States (Toll-free)
Conference ID:

April 15, 2020
2:30-3:30 p.m.

2:30 - 2:35 pm Welcome & Introductions
Jim Schimmer, Chair

2:35 – 2:45 pm MORPC Program and Policy Updates
Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer, MORPC
Joe Garrity, Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, MORPC
- Sustainability Dashboard
- Regional Sustainability Agenda
- Energy Academy
- Sustaining Scioto Board
- Policy Report

2:45 – 3:00 pm Featured Projects in Response to COVID-19: Air Quality and Trail Use
Brooke White, Sr. Air Quality Specialist, MORPC
Melinda Vonstein, Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator, MORPC

3:00 – 3:30 pm Adapting to COVID-19 and Impacts on Sustainability Work (Discussion)
- How has COVID-19 impacted your work? What about specific impacts to Sustainability work?
- How are you adapting? - e.g. moving events online where possible, collecting new data/research, pausing programs
- What needs do you have? How can we support one another?
- Are there any silver linings can we identify from this experience so far?

3:30 pm Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY LYNN KAUFMAN AT LKAUFMAN@MORPC.ORG TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUEST SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.
The next SAC Meeting is
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:30 pm
Location: TBD
February 19, 2020. 2:30 pm

Members Present
Kate Bartter, The Sustainability Institute, OSU               Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Robin Duffee, Violet Township                       Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County
Joe Massey, COTA                                                   Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington       Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Megan O’Callaghan, City of Dublin       Eric Walli, Honda North America
Kyle O’Keefe, SWACO
Aslyne Rodriguez, Empower Bus

MORPC Staff Present
Rachael Beeman                          Natalie Hurst                        Jennifer Noll                        Melinda Vonstein
Kerstin Carr                            Lynn Kaufman                        Stephen Patchan                      Brandi Whetstone
Jon-Paul d’Aversa                        William Murdock                     Edwina Teye                          Brooke White
Joe Garrity

Meeting Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

Welcome & Introductions
Members and staff introduced themselves, welcoming new committee members Robin Duffee, Megan O’Callaghan, and Kyle O’Keefe.

Sustainable2050 Update
The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be on March 27, and will focus on topics related to natural resources and celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Members and staff will work to develop a strategic plan for Sustainable2050, to guide the group’s work throughout 2020.

Climate Resilience as a Component of Sustainability Work
Resilience: The capacity of a system to retain essential functions before, during, and after a hazard strikes. See http://toolkit.climate.gov/

- Improve emergency preparedness capacity
- Resource protection
- Water supply planning
- Protecting public infrastructure
- Microgrids
- Social services to protect and prepare vulnerable population

With extreme weather events, there may be increased incidents of water quality issues, with stormwater and nutrient runoff into waterways, and damage to infrastructure. A priority through Sustaining Scioto is to create, update, and maintain climate projections and tools to support planning and implementation initiatives. This information is vital to increase the resilience of the region, and to inform how to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions.
Mitigation: Reducing emissions and stabilizing the levels of greenhouse gases. Examples can be found within existing goals and objectives of the Regional Sustainability Agenda, including:

- Reduce per capita energy consumption
- Reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Increase percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels
- Increase the number of local renewable energy projects
- Increase the number of homes receiving weatherization services

Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee
A subcommittee is being formed to update the current Regional Sustainability Agenda. Justin Milam will chair the subcommittee, with work beginning in April 2020, to coincide with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Staff and members discussed items and ideas that should be considered in the Regional Sustainability Agenda:

- Resilience
- Mitigation
- Social equity - It was suggested that the general public be surveyed on the subject of what should be in the Regional Sustainability Agenda. Energy burden and other equity metrics were recommended, such as distance to parks for all residents.
- Content/metrics should be measurable to show progress.
- Different perspectives should be considered. Staff is recruiting members from different backgrounds in the MORPC membership to work on this Subcommittee.

Working Group Updates
Sustainability Dashboard Working Group
The Working Group continues to meet monthly to guide the development of the Sustainability Dashboard, with technical support from CURA at OSU. Working Group members beta tested the Dashboard in January and provided input. Members of the Regional Data Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be invited to perform the second round of user testing in late March or early April. The goal is for the Dashboard to launch in early June. The Working Group will meet again on April 21.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

Solar Toolkit Subgroup
The Subgroup met on January 30 to assess existing toolkits for applicability to Central Ohio. Craig Foster of Energility will serve as Chair of the Subgroup. The Subgroup will meet again in March.

Air Quality Sensor Network Subgroup
The Subgroup met on February 3 with Ayaz Hyder, OSU Professor of Environmental Health Sciences serving as Chair. The meeting focused on the central motivation for creating an air quality sensor network program in Central Ohio. The motivation will be used to craft other aspects of the program as time progresses. The Subgroup will meet again on March 2.

Central Ohio Greenways Board
The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board welcomed three new members at the January 15 meeting: Leah Evans, Homeport; Julie Walcoff, Toole Design; and Bill Hebble, Franklin County Engineers Office. The Board also discussed developing a formal process for the annual update of the COG Regional Trail Vision. The Board will meet again on May 13.

**COG Operations & Access Working Group**
The Working Group is exploring the opportunity of working with AEP to develop an energy micro-grid to provide power for trail lighting and disaster shelters in the Hilltop area. The Working Group will meet on March 2.

**COG Marketing & Communications Working Group**
The Working Group is developing a toolkit for a series of events called “Taste of the Trails.” The toolkit will help trail partners facilitate events to celebrate the trails in their communities. The Working Group will meet on February 25.

**COG Trail Development Working Group**
The Working Group hosted four quadrant meetings in Franklin County to learn more about trail projects and goals from partners. The Working Group is also managing two ongoing projects: Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study and Urban Greenways Design Guide. The Working Group will meet on February 20.

**COG Partnership Working Group**
The Working Group met on February 18 to continue efforts to develop a Trail Funding Resource Guide. The group also continues to work with the Urban Land Institute to increase awareness of COG by developing a scope for the Rapid 5 initiative. The Working Group will meet again on April 21.

**Policy Update / Government Affairs**

**House Bill 476**
HB 476 was introduced on January 21, to amend the law regarding eminent domain. In addition to allowing an owner of real property to appeal to the appointing authority of a park district, the county probate judge, to veto the appropriation of land for the purpose of providing a recreational trail, HB 476 would also allow the property owner to ask for a veto from a board of township trustees or the council of a municipal corporation depending upon the location of the real property. MORPC opposes House Bill 476 because it leads to creating a precedent that could add restrictions or caveats for other local entities with eminent domain authority.

**Federal – Waters of the U.S.**
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has finalized its revised “waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) rule, drawing praise from various industry groups and criticism from environmentalists.

**Other Business**

Adjourned at 4:00 pm.
Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)
Next meeting: May 13, 2020, 2pm

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met virtually on March 18th. New Board member Al Obayuwana with the YMCA was welcomed to the group. The Board adopted revised “Central Ohio Greenways Definitions” that clearly describe the types of trails that COG supports and the process for updating the “Regional Trail Vision”.

The Board also reviewed COG Working Group activities:

The COG Operations & Access working group is exploring the opportunity developing a micro-grid project to support trail lighting and disaster shelters in the hilltop area with support from MORPC’s Sr. Energy Planner. The group plans to begin exploring funding opportunities over the next few months.

The COG Marketing & Communications working group developed a toolkit for a series of events called the “Taste of the Trails.” The toolkit will help trail partners facilitate events to celebrate trails in their communities. Five communities have expressed interest or set dates for “Taste of the Trails” event, however some events are being canceled or postponed due to COVID-19 “Stay at Home” orders.

The COG Trail Development working group will make recommendations to update the “Regional Trail Vision” during the next board meeting. The working group is also managing two ongoing projects: Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study and Urban Greenways Design Guide.

The COG Partnership working group is developing a “Trail Funding Resource Guide”. The group and the Urban Land Institute has placed work related to the “Rapid 5” project on hold due to due budget and fundraising concerns related to the COVID-19 situation.

Central Ohio Greenways is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation and is monitoring how trail managers in Central Ohio and across the country are dealing with social distancing and over-crowding on trails.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Dale Arnold)
Next meeting: May 26, 2020, 2pm

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group did not meet in March in light of the conflict with the Columbus Climate Action Workshop. The Working Group will meet again, virtually, on May 26th.

The Solar Toolkit subgroup meets virtually on the last Thursday of every month. A beta-test site of the toolkit is available for feedback. Please contact Jon-Paul d’Aversa at jpdaversa@morpc.org for information. Additional resources are in development and will be available through the toolkit as they are collected or created.

The Air Quality Sensor Network subgroup will meet virtually in April. The subgroup and stakeholders received and provided review on an Air Quality Monitoring Action Plan. The Action Plan provides for
deployment of low-cost particulate matter monitors in the downtown area during the pandemic shutdown. The monitors will remain in place as economic and transportation activity resume to quantify the impacts to air pollution. The Action Plan is currently being implemented.

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**Sustainable2050**  
*Next meeting: Friday, June 26, 2020, 9:30am*

Sustainable2050 members held their Q1 meeting on Friday, March 27 on the theme of Natural Resources. Our thanks to Jennifer Fish (Franklin Soil & Water), Rosalie Hendon (City of Columbus), and Melinda Vonstein (MORPC) for adapting their presentations to a virtual meeting format. The Q2 meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 26. The City of Dublin will host this meeting on the topic of Mobility.

As a reminder, MORPC aims to certify the Tier Status of all Sustainable2050 members – and grow the membership – in 2020. If your community or agency is interested in participating in Sustainable2050 or earning its Tier Status, please contact Jennifer Noll, Principal Planner, for assistance at jnoll@morpc.org.

**Sustainability Dashboard Working Group (Co-chair: Justin Milam/Rick Stein)**  
*Next meeting: April 21, 2020, 9:30am*

The Sustainability Dashboard Working Group, a collaboration between MORPC’s Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC), has continued meeting monthly to guide the development of a Sustainability Dashboard, with technical support from the MORPC Team and CURA at OSU.

The Team continues collecting the best available data to populate the dashboard, identifying outreach opportunities for the launch, and planning for the second round of user testing. An invitation will be emailed to the members of the SAC, RDAC, and other stakeholders identified by the team beginning April 15th. The dashboard development is in the final stages, so the user testing will help with fine-tuning before the launch expected in June.
Increasing Resilience, Reducing Emissions

Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
BACKGROUND
THREATS & VULNERABILITY

These are just a few of the threats and vulnerabilities that were identified:

- Reduced Water Volumes
- Increased Economic Burden of Repairs
- Increased Energy Bills
- Damage to Infrastructure
- Loss of Power
- Increased Water Demand
INFORMED DECISION MAKING

Create, update, and maintain climate projections and tools to support planning and implementation initiatives
Informed Decision Making

Increase resilience

Mitigation / Reduce Emissions
Resilience: The capacity of a system to retain essential functions before, during, and after a hazard strikes. *

- Improve emergency preparedness capacity
- Resource protection
- Water supply planning
- Protecting public infrastructure
- Microgrids (solar + battery back up for example)
- Social services to protect and prepare vulnerable populations

Mitigation: Reducing emissions and stabilizing the levels of greenhouse gases.

- Reduce per capita energy consumption
- Reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Increase percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels
- Increase the number of local renewable energy projects
- Increase the number of homes receiving weatherization services
DISCUSSION

• Increase resilience and reduce emissions ➔ Should those serve as the guiding principles for the Regional Sustainability Agenda?

• How do we define them? (are definitions clear?)

• How do we talk about them?

• How do we create action?
To conserve internet bandwidth for this call, please mute your microphone and turn off your video camera.

Please use the chat function to let us know if you have a comment or question.
AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. MORPC Program and Policy Updates - Brandi Whetstone, Joe Garrity, MORPC
   - Sustainability Dashboard
   - Regional Sustainability Agenda
   - Energy Academy
   - Policy Report

3. Featured Projects in Response to COVID-19: Air Quality and Trail Use– Brooke White, Melinda Vonstein, MORPC

4. Adapting to COVID-19 and Impacts on Sustainability - Discussion
   - How has COVID-19 impacted your work? What about specific impacts to Sustainability work?
   - How are you adapting?
   - What needs do you have? How can we support one another?
   - Are there any silver linings we can identify from this experience so far?
1.1 Reduce vehicle miles traveled

1.5 Increase alternative fuel stations

1.6 Reduce energy consumption

3.1 Increase sustainable businesses

Options

The Ohio State University
Center for Urban and Regional Analysis

MORPC
Confirmed Sub-committee Members:

- James Mako, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission
- Jenny McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
- Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington (Chair)
- Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
- Basar Ozbilen, OSU City and Regional Planning
- Nick Plouck, City of Dublin
- Alex Slaymaker, Smart Columbus
- Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
- Eric Walli, Honda of North America
ENERGY ACADEMY

• CLASSES TAKE PLACE 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
• REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

March 11      Central Ohio’s Energy Landscape and Programs
June 10       Community Resilience – Equity & Health Impact of Energy
September 9   Solar Toolkit & Benchmarking
December 9    Planning for the Future & Financing

Contact Jon-Paul d’Aversa for more information jpdaversa@morpc.org
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Monthly Legislative Update

COVID-19 State Update

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+ Strategic Initiatives
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MORPC
AIR QUALITY AND TRAIL USE DURING COVID-19

Brooke White, Sr. Air Quality Specialist
Melinda Vonstein, Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator
MORPC
AIR QUALITY

- Ozone Season March 1\textsuperscript{st} - October 31\textsuperscript{st}

- Air quality data collection and analysis

Sign up for Air Quality Alerts

morpc.org/airquality
Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution

NO\textsubscript{2} concentration in troposphere

March 2019

14–25 March 2020

ITALY
Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution

NO\textsubscript{2} concentration within 50 km of city

- Los Angeles
- Denver
- Houston
- Phoenix
- New York City
- Washington DC
- Chicago

Post COVID-19
Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution

2020 OZONE POLLUTION is 14% below 2015-2019 average
Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

SHARE THE TRAIL

Practice Safe Social Distancing on the Trail

Before you head out, check to ensure the trail is open. Be prepared that trails may have limited services, facilities may be closed, and maintenance and security may be limited or unavailable. Find trail-manager contact info at TrailLink.com. Check coronavirus.gov for the latest public-health guidance.

- On the trail, do not gather in groups.
- Avoid playgrounds or other areas where groups may form.
- Keep 6 feet between you and others at all times.
- Leave any area where you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance.
- Carry water, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes to further protect yourself.
- Do not touch your face.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- Stay home if you exhibit any symptoms of illness.

Visit railstotrails.org/COVID19 for resources and information about ways to stay healthy and well during this time of social distancing.
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

LEGEND
- Permanent Count Station
- Surveyed Trail

MORPC

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS
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