Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Regional Data Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

December 1, 2020, 1:00 pm

Members Present
Charlie Burks, Columbus Metropolitan Library
Chair Brad Ebersole, Consolidated Electric
    Cooperative, Inc.
Shoreh Elhami, City of Columbus
Rick Garrabrant, City of Columbus
Vice-Chair Jung Kim, One Columbus
Tom Kneeland
Bill LaFayette, Regionomics®

Doug McCollough, City of Dublin
Jonathan Miller, Delaware County Regional
    Planning Commission
Gene Oliver, City of Worthington
Sam Orth, City of Columbus
Theresa Seagraves, Franklin County Public
    Health
Rick Stein, Urban Decision Group

Public Present:
David Norris, OSU Kirwan

MORPC Staff Present
Joe Garrity   Lynn Kaufman   Aaron Schill   Liz Whelan
Natalie Hurst   Cheri Mansperger   Hosana Tekie

Meeting Called to Order at 1:03 pm.

2020 Census Update
Aaron Schill reported that counting ended several months ago. Ohio had a 70.7% self-response rate, which is slightly higher than in 2010. Reapportioned counts are due to be delivered to Congress on December 31, 2020. Redistricting data is due to the states on April 1, 2021.

The Census Bureau is still working on the Differential Privacy issue, which was discussed at the July 22, 2020 Regional Information & Data Group meeting. Differential privacy will keep census data from being tracked back to individuals.

MORPC Staff Updates
Broadband Projects & Programs
    MORPC Broadband Access Pilot Program
    MORPC, the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, and PCs for People are collaborating to provide low-income, K-12 students other than those in Columbus City Schools and their families with low-cost internet access. Columbus City Schools has their own Broadband Access Program (see below). To date, MORPC's program has procured 3,000+ hotspots and is in the process of collecting information on the distribution of machines and hotspots. The City of Columbus and Franklin County are the largest public partners, with another 24 corporate partners providing media, equipment, and other types of support. Please see www.morpc.org/broadband for more information.

City of Columbus Broadband Access Program
The first phase of the program will focus on 200 student households without household connectivity in two Columbus areas: the South Side & the Near East Side. These areas were selected based on K-12 households needing access, access to city fiber and networks, and with radio siting. The goal is to implement the program early in 2021.

Partners have been selected and are currently being finalized, and additional State of Ohio funding is being pursued.

COVID-19 Research Briefs
With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the City of Columbus, and the Columbus Foundation, MORPC staff is working with local partners to create the Research Briefs. MORPC's consultant, New Reach Community Communications, is working on outreach; MORPC staff is gathering quantitative data. Staff may ask Members for data assistance in the near future.

Smart Region Task Force
The Smart Region Task Force met for the last three years, creating three deliverables: the Smart Streets Policy, the Smart Region Resource Guide, and the Smart Region Playbook. Chair Dana McDaniel and Vice-Chair Joe Stefanov of the Task Force will present a resolution to Commission on December 10, 2020, asking for support of deliverables. Please see morpc.org/smartregion for more information.

[Regional Public Policy Update](#) – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*

Working Group Reports
Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG) – Charlie Burks
The RIDG meetings began in January 2020, and the Working Group is now forming a Steering Committee to handle administration of those RIDG meetings. There were four RIDG meetings in 2020, with only the first meeting being in person. The response from attendees has been uniformly very positive. The Working Group's next steps are to create a charter, a calendar of meetings, and agenda outlines by the end of December 2020. The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be in January 2021.

Sustainability Dashboard – Rick Stein
The Sustainability Dashboard went live at the Summit on Sustainability in October. The Working Group has completed its deliverable.

Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit – Doug McCollough
Delivery of the Survey is anticipated in January, and results should be available in Q1 2021. The Working Group plans to hold focus groups and in-person interviews after the survey results are received. Members hope that the Toolkit will serve as a thought leadership item inside and outside of the MORPC region. The Toolkit will be created after the survey results are complete.

Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy – Gene Oliver
The City of Columbus is redesigning their network, and the Working Group will join the City in their redesign. The next steps for the Working Group are to continue to refine the cost model, review access models, and create a Memorandum of Understanding of how the project will be funded.

Regional Data Agenda Update
MORPC staff will facilitate a short-term (three month) Working Group to update the regional Data Agenda. Members were asked to contact Aaron if interested in participating in this Working Group. The Working Group will meet in January and in February 2021, and will present a draft Agenda to the Committee on March 2, 2021.

Aaron suggested that the Committee create a new Working Group to specifically target Goal 5 - Digital Equity. Members discussed the need to have more clear goals regarding inclusion.

2021 Meeting Schedule
Meetings will be on March 2, June 1, September 7, and December 7, 2021, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Whether these meetings will be in-person or virtual is still to be determined.

New, Returning, & Outgoing Members
MORPC committee appointments generally expire on December 31 of a given year. Most RDAC Members with expiring terms have committed to new full term; those Members will receive a confirmation letter from MORPC in the near future. New Member updates will be sent to the Committee in January, and new Members will all introduce themselves at their first RDAC meeting on March 2, 2021.

Adjourned at 2:34 pm.