



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**VIDEO/AUDIO CONFERENCE**

**Thursday, April 8, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m.**

To join by video and see any screen sharing, click on “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” below. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams for the link to work.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

To participate by phone, use the conference call information below.

[+1 614-362-3056](#) United States, Columbus  
[\(888\) 596-2819](#) United States (Toll-free)  
Phone Conference ID: 600 107 843#

**AGENDA**

- 1:30 p.m.
1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
  2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair
    - **Nominating Committee Report** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Secretary
    - **Election of Officers and Executive Committee** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair
    - **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
  3. **One MORPC One Voice: Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County** – Erika Clark Jones, ADAMH Board of Franklin County CEO
  4. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Karen J. Angelou**  
Chair

**Erik J. Janas**  
Vice Chair

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
Secretary

2:00 p.m.

**Committees**

5. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair
  - a. **Call to Order** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair
  - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report**
    - Transportation & Infrastructure Development – Thea Ewing, Director
  - c. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
    - 1) Approval of **March 11, 2021 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**
  - d. **Competitive Advantage Projects** – Ted Geer, MORPC Economic Development & Infrastructure Officer
  - e. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair

2:30 p.m.

6. **Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization** – Mark Forrest (Madison County), Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Chair
7. **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Brad Ebersole (Delaware County), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair
8. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Ben Collins (Plain Township), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
  - a. **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joe Garrity, MORPC Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
9. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Jim Schimmer (Franklin County), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
  - a. **Rapid 5 Project** – Kerstin Carr, MORPC Planning & Sustainability Director
10. **Commission Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval of **March 11, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes**
  - b. **Proposed Resolution 03-21: “Adoption of MORPC’s 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda”**

- c. **Proposed Resolution 04-21: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement for consulting services to perform a Greenways Visioning Process and Community Outreach”**
- d. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

**11. Other Business**

3:00 p.m.      **12. Adjourn** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair

**PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR [ssaunders@morpc.org](mailto:ssaunders@morpc.org) IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

**The next Commission Meeting is**  
**Thursday, May 13, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**  
*Video/Audio Conference*



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## Memorandum

**TO:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Executive Committee  
Officers and Board Members

**FROM:** Chris Amorose Groomes, Nominating Committee Chair

**DATE:** March 11, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Nomination of Executive Committee Members**

### Background:

In accordance with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Articles of Agreement, the Commission will be notified at least five (5) days prior to the Annual Meeting as to the nominees for MORPC's Officers and Executive Committee members.

The Nominating Committee excerpt from the Articles is as follows:

"At least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting, the chair shall appoint the Nominating Committee. Said Nominating Committee having been duly appointed and confirmed shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting of the COMMISSION, report the names of the candidates so nominated to the secretary. The secretary shall advise each member of the COMMISSION, in writing, at least five (5) days prior to the annual meeting as to the nominees so selected. At the annual meeting, the chair of the Nominating Committee shall report the names so nominated. After this report is presented, nominations from the floor shall be invited. Such nominations must be seconded. The secretary then shall prepare ballots properly identifying the nominees, said ballots shall be distributed and tallied during the annual meeting by a temporary committee appointed for that purpose."

### The Nominating Committee Members:

As noted at the December 10, 2020 Commission meeting, Commission Chair Karen Angelou has appointed five members of the Nominating Committee.

- Chris Amorose Groomes, Committee Chair, City of Dublin
- Jeff Benton, Delaware County
- Mike Schadek, City of Columbus
- Franklin Christman, Village of Ashville
- Nancy White, Mifflin Township

### **Review of Current Members of Executive Committee:**

Several Executive Committee positions do not have expiring terms this year and therefore require no action by the Nominating Committee. For information, these are listed below:

- 1) Immediate Past Chair:** Rory McGuiness, (2012) City of Columbus
  - 2) In second year of current two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2022)**
    - a) Michelle Crandall (2020), City Manager, City of Hilliard
    - b) David Scheffler (2020), Mayor, City of Lancaster
    - c) Greg Lestini (2018), Bricker & Eckler LLP, Attorney, Franklin County representative
    - d) Franklin Christman (2018), Administrator, Village of Ashville
    - e) Chris Amorose Grooms (2018), Mayor, City of Dublin
- 

### **Nominating Committee Recommendations:**

The Nominating Committee convened on January 28, and made the following recommendations for Officer positions and Executive Committee positions, which will be reported at the March 11, 2021 Commission meeting and considered at the April 8, 2021 Commission meeting:

#### **The nominees for Officers for renewed one-year Officer Terms (expires 2022)**

- **Chair:** Karen Angelou, Council Member, City of Gahanna
- **Vice-Chair:** Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County
- **Secretary:** Chris Amorose Grooms, Mayor, City of Dublin

#### **The nominees for Executive Committee are:**

- 1) For renewal of one-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2022)**
    - a) Joe Stefanov (2008), Chair of Building Committee, City Manager, City of New Albany
    - b) Karen Angelou (2014), Chair of MORPC, Council Member, City of Gahanna
    - c) Kim Maggard (2015), Chair of Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee, Mayor, City of Whitehall
  - 2) For a new two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2023)**
    - a) None
  - 3) For renewal of two-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2023):**
    - a) Jennifer Gallagher (2017), Director, Department of Public Service, City of Columbus
    - b) Erik Janas (2017), Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County
    - c) Jeff Benton (2019), Commissioner, Delaware County
    - d) Nancy White (2017), Administrator, Mifflin Township
- 

### **Notes:**

- 1) The year after each name refers to the first year of the member's current service on the Executive Committee. For example, Joe Smith (2017) means that Joe Smith's first term began in 2017 and he has served continuously since then.
- 2) Per the bylaws, Executive Committee members may serve up to three consecutive two-year terms. One-year extensions are available if serving as an officer or committee chair.



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## MORPC Monthly Agency Report

March 2021

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### Department Directors

Kerstin Carr [kcarr@morpc.org](mailto:kcarr@morpc.org)  
Thea Ewing [twalsh@morpc.org](mailto:twalsh@morpc.org)  
Joe Garrity [jgarrity@morpc.org](mailto:jgarrity@morpc.org)  
Shawn Hufstedler [shufstedler@morpc.org](mailto:shufstedler@morpc.org)

Niel Jurist [njurist@morpc.org](mailto:njurist@morpc.org)  
Aaron Schill [aschill@morpc.org](mailto:aschill@morpc.org)  
Robert Williams [rwilliams@morpc.org](mailto:rwilliams@morpc.org)

### State of the Region

Over 500 individuals from across Central Ohio joined us for MORPC's State of the Region on March 31. The theme of the virtual event was "Our Future Envisioned" with author and keynote speaker Jonathan F.P. Rose.

### Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

TRAC applications were due March 26 and will be evaluated through an accelerated cycle timeline that will end with a final project funding list approval on August 25. MORPC will be presenting the applications to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on March 31 and to the Transportation Policy Committee on April 8. The MORPC public comment period for our prioritization of the projects will occur during April. The prioritization will come before the MORPC committees in May for adoption. See TRAC on MORPC's Funding & Grants webpage at <https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/funding-grants/> for more information.

### Ohio University School of Leadership and Public Affairs

MORPC is partnering with Ohio University in a "Governing Essentials for Local Elected Officials" training targeted toward newly elected officials or those seeking a refresher to gain a high-level understanding of topics related to local government. Learn more [here](#).

### DC Virtual Event

MORPC's Government Affairs Team led the planning of the March 15-16 DC Virtual Event. A group of 35 Columbus Partnership CEOs and the Columbus Regional Coalition principals heard from congressional leaders in the Ohio Delegation and the Biden Administration. The topics discussed ranged from the American Rescue Plan and updates on infrastructure to addressing the digital divide and the needed investment in research and development. On March 16, the 15-member Columbus Region Coalition shared their priorities with congressional staff in the Ohio delegation. A two-panel discussion was held for Congressional staffers with key regional leaders. The first focused on two vital projects to the prosperity of this region. The second panel discussed the future of mobility and infrastructure in our growing region. A deeper dive panel discussion on Recovery: Addressing the implications of COVID for community health will be held for the Congressional staffers April 20 at 4 p.m.

### Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative (RSTI)

In early March, MORPC arranged a virtual meeting with Amtrak leadership to discuss including the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor in the Amtrak 2035 Plan, which is slated for final approval later this spring. Amtrak representative Derrick James recognized the substantial investment in studies that have happened for this corridor to date and recommended a formal request with letters of support be submitted by March 19. MORPC made a formal submission with over 20 letters of support, which included cities, counties, and legislators. MORPC will continue to monitor finalization of the Amtrak long range plan and provide updates to members as available.

### Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition

Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill is serving as Co-Chair of the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition Steering Committee, and as Chair of their Device Access Working Group. The coalition had their official kickoff March 8. Though this group's work is specifically targeted at Franklin County, MORPC plans to use the framework and offer it to other member communities as well.

### Regional Housing Strategy (RHS)

The RHS Peer Exchange held its first session in March, featuring local government members and partners who are creating new options for housing in the community through updated policies, new approaches, and grassroots initiatives.

MORPC Team Members hosted a peer-to-peer workshop with colleagues in Atlanta, Boston, and Metro Washington, all of whom recently completed regional housing studies. The workshop was an opportunity for agency representatives to discuss next steps for their housing efforts, and to learn from peer regional agencies who are also moving toward implementation.

### Renovation Updates

Construction is complete, with a few minor follow up items to be installed. Most of the furniture is installed. The Information Technology Services Team continues to port desktop phone numbers in the Microsoft Phone system; work on audio/video with technology design; configure network and Wi-Fi; and relocate printers.

### Cityfi

As Congress is pivoting to infrastructure and surface transportation reauthorization, Team Members are consulting with Cityfi. MORPC is in a prime position to redefine the metropolitan planning organization through revolutionizing the development of funding, and operationalization of solutions for significant regional transportation and land use issues. Cityfi will assist in facilitating an outcomes-driven approach that supports opportunities such as Amtrak expansion, earmarks, surface transportation reauthorization, and competing for other discretionary grants furthering MORPC's mission.

### Meetings with State Legislators

MORPC Team Members are promoting the newly adopted Public Policy Agenda and advocating on behalf of MORPC's local government members. Team Members have met with the following legislators in the past month:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Rep. Crawley  | • Rep. Miller   |
| • Rep. Carfagna | • Rep. Boggs    |
| • Rep. Ginter   | • Sen. McColley |
| • Leader Sykes  | • Sen. Brenner  |
| • Rep. Leland   | • Sen. Hackett  |

### State Transportation Budget

MORPC provided interested party testimony on House Bill 74 to the Senate Transportation Committee on the State's 2022-2023 transportation budget and made five recommendations. These recommendations are in alignment with the 2021-2022 Public Policy Agenda and include:

- Increasing funding for transit
- Making roadways safer for everyone
- Investing in rural Ohio
- Funding trails
- Reevaluation of Electric Vehicle Fees

These key areas of interest provide solutions to increase equity and will help all of Ohio's rural, suburban, and urban communities in our expanding region.

### Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Team Members are compiling data to report the 2021 condition for each of the adopted performance measures for the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The data will be summarized in an MTP Report Card document which is expected to be published in May.



Team Members continue to refine the data development timeline and data needs for the Population and Employment estimates and forecasts for the 2024-2050 MTP.

#### Mobility Management

Transportation user surveys are underway to collect provider information to support future efficiency and connectivity improvement initiatives.

#### Transit

Starting April 5 Lancaster/Fairfield Public Transit will launch a US-33 Rickenbacker commuter line connecting Lancaster to the Rickenbacker area for jobs and connect with COTA.

Team Members reviewed use case scenarios with COTA and their consultant for the Innovative Mobility Initiative collaborating and connecting transit entities in 13 counties.

#### LinkUS

MORPC Team Members continue to work with LinkUS partners COTA and City of Columbus to advance the Northwest and East-West corridor studies. Public engagement activities continue for both corridors. For the Northwest Corridor:

- The project team presented results of the downtown alternatives analysis to the Executive Steering Committee which show alternative “4”, utilizing Spring/Long to connect downtown to the Olentangy River Road corridor, as the best alternative based on the evaluation criteria.
- The consultant team delivered a final Active Transportation Memo which identified needed bicycle and pedestrian projects within the corridor study area.
- The project team is beginning to plan for the next phase of the project which includes engaging a consultant to begin the design phase of the Locally Preferred Alignment.

For the East-West Corridor:

- The consultant team presented recommended station locations along the corridor and sought feedback from technical stakeholders on these locations.
- The consultant team presented information on dedicated guideway alternatives that will be evaluated.

#### Gohio

Team Members successfully launched the Columbus City Schools Cpass on March 15 with Columbus City Schools, COTA and the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District. This program allows Columbus City School students to ride COTA to school or anywhere else free of charge.

#### Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

CORPO submitted the draft Planning Work Program to ODOT on March 1. County-level subcommittee meetings were held throughout March. CORPO provided letters of support for projects located within the CORPO area applying for TRAC funding. CORPO Team Members continue to work with members on several special projects in the CORPO area including the Madison County Thoroughfare Plan and Process, the Knox-Morrow Access Study, trailhead connects, and transit coordination.

#### Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

The 2020-21 update of the CAP program is complete and was leveraged in MORPC's recent engagement with federal and state lawmakers and virtual DC flyout. The CAP project list has significant utility in an opportunity-rich federal and state infrastructure funding environment.

#### Federal Competitive Programs

The U.S. Department of Transportation closed the window to apply for 2021 discretionary grant funding through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program. MORPC provided regional application coordination and supported an application through the Ohio Department of Transportation for parts of the Columbus Crossroads project. Team Members assisted in obtaining letters of support for the grant application.

#### Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

The Public Works Integrating Committee (PWIC) for OPWC District 3 directed staff to develop several revisions to the policies and criteria for FY23 funding. Proposed revisions will be presented to the PWIC on April 16 for review.



#### Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)

District 3 received nine final applications for Round 15 of Clean Ohio Conservation funding, requesting a total of \$6.2 million. There is approximately \$5.4 million available. Site visits are scheduled for March 26. The NRAC will award funding on April 24.

#### MORPC Attributable Funding

The public comment period for the Attributable Funds Committee draft recommendations ended March 28.

#### Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

RDAC met March 2 to hear staff updates and to review the updated Regional Data Agenda. Committee Members voted to approve the updates to the 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda and to forward it to Commission for adoption. The RDAC next meets April 6 to discuss prioritization of the Agenda's Objectives.

- Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit Working Group members continue their work on the Survey. The Group plans to distribute the Survey to RDAC Members in April and then to all members as soon as possible. Results of the Survey should be available in the first half of 2021.
- The Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy Working Group continues their work via the Fiber Network Subgroup. Working Group Members updated the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association on February 5, focusing on redefining the goals and conceptual framework, and the high-level cost estimates of the participation model. The Working Group's next step is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Intent.

#### Data & Mapping Outreach & Collaboration

Team Members are working with ODOT to help them consume Franklin County LBRS data. Staff are working with partners and other agencies to gather data for use with the new ESRI ArcGIS Urban program being rolled out. Team Members continue to update the COVID-19 Resource Hub (<https://central-ohio-covid19-morpc.hub.arcgis.com/>) with information pertinent to members. Staff provided Morrow County with requested health data.

Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill participated on the March 24 Columbus Metropolitan Club Panel titled, "Solving the Affordable Housing Puzzle" (available on [YouTube](#)).

#### Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

The ATP Steering Committee met March 16 and reviewed a final draft of the Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress Analysis. The analysis uses objective data as a proxy to estimate how safe and comfortable the region's primary road network is for people who walk or bike. Discussion began on the potential actions that will comprise the ATP Action Plan. The Action Plan will address key challenges of implementing active transportation infrastructure in the region.

#### Complete Streets

The Complete Streets Policy Steering Committee met February 23 to reconvene after taking a pause on policy development to coordinate with the ATP update. The Committee was provided with a brief refresher on work done to date and then commenced proposing updates to the policy requirements.

#### Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

The second quarter ATC meeting is replaced with a stakeholder workshop for the ATP. This virtual workshop is Tuesday, April 13. All regional stakeholders are invited to learn more about the ATP and provide input on the draft materials.

#### Active Transportation Outreach

Team Members continue to host virtual webinars. The April 21 webinar is "Using Indicators to Track Walking and Cycling Progress."

#### insight2050 Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Team Members continue to work on final reports for Jefferson Township's Blacklick Station project and Hilliard's Cemetery Road project. City of Hilliard staff met with MORPC staff to finalize transportation recommendations for the corridor. MORPC staff also met with City of Columbus staff to finalize inputs into the Speed Management Framework tool. Tags for Westerville's Cleveland Avenue Recommendations Inventory have been finalized, and MORPC staff continues to develop a first draft. Team Members are

developing a design process to incorporate into the Franklin County Engineer's Office's Complete Streets Implementation Toolkit. All projects are still on track to be completed by late spring/early summer of this year.

#### Transportation Safety

Team Members participated in the March Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting. All seven fatal crashes reviewed involved impairment. The two pedestrian-involved crashes reviewed occurred at night and in locations without sidewalks or street lighting.

Team Members are participating in ODOT's recently convened Speed Management Committee. The Committee has been divided into three subcommittees to address specific challenges identified with the current speed limit revision process. The three subcommittee topics include: 1) existing factors used to determine speed limits; 2) inconsistent speed zoning process statewide; 3) educational materials to advise on how the process works. The subcommittees are working to develop draft materials and will regroup with the larger Committee April 19 to review.

#### Sustainable2050

Sustainable2050 members met March 19 with a focus on updates in the field of energy. Guest speakers from SWACO presented two new programs in solar energy and carbon emissions management. An updated Sustainable2050 website was also unveiled to members. The updated website will be populated with new resources along with timely information about webinars, technical assistance, and funding opportunities.

#### Central Ohio Greenways Board (COG)

The COG Board met March 17 and welcomed new member Ariunaa Bayanjargal who will support the Board in making connection to climate and health initiatives. Alicia Gaston with the Rapid 5 initiative shared updates on the effort which has raised over \$300,000 to hire five landscape architect firms to develop a vision plan for each of the region's five river corridors. Central Ohio Greenways will coordinate with the effort by providing data, sharing plans, and advocating for equitable access to the waterways and trails.

- The Trail Development Working Group is focused on follow up items from the Trail Prioritization effort. The Group is reviewing how MORPC programs could support implementation, including the insight2050 Technical Assistance Program. In addition, the Group is interested in developing a "committed trail" project map identifying where trail projects will happen in the next one to four years. This map could be shared with other regional jurisdiction and trail builders to initiate conversation about connectivity and collaboration across multiple communities.
- The Marketing & Communications Working Group is developing a toolkit similar to the Taste of the Trails toolkit that will focus on community loop trails that highlight local businesses along COG trails and community connectors. Considerations for the toolkit include outreach, sponsorship, graphic, mapping, and partnership recommendations. The Group is also planning to meet with local communities and councils to share COG progress and ask for specific support. Agenda items and content are being developed.
- The Operations & Access Working Group met March 1 and discussed opportunities to share best practices for winter maintenance.
- The Partnership Working Group selected Econsult Solutions, Inc. for the Economic Impact of Trails project. The firm is expected to begin the first week of April. Following the consultants' work, MORPC will develop a public-facing report that includes the work of the economic impact consultant, survey data from 2020, and additional MORPC research. The results of the project will be shared with local communities in the second half of 2021.

#### Sustaining Scioto Board

The Board met February 24 to discuss the need for updated or forecasted precipitation data for water infrastructure planning. Multiple avenues for creating this data were discussed.

- The Agriculture and Rural Communities Outreach Team met March 18 to review a draft key informant interview of Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors of the counties in the Scioto Watershed. The goal of the study is to collect data about the perceptions of water quality, conservation practices etc. as a precursor to establishing partnerships among the agricultural and rural communities.

### Energy & Air Quality

- The Air Quality Sensor Subcommittee began public outreach to neighborhood area commissions and community health action teams. Plans to collocate the Purple Air monitors with Ohio EPA near real time particulate matter monitors are being finalized.
- The Solar Subcommittee is finalizing the application for MORPC's designation as a SolSmart Silver Regional Organization. The Subcommittee continues to assist two OSU student projects focused on developing solar guidance resources for the MORPC region.
- The Diversity and Environmental Justice Subcommittee continues to build from the EAQ Working Group roster. Those interested in participating should contact Brooke White (bwhite@morpc.org) or Jon-Paul d'Aversa (jpdaversa@morpc.org).

### Local Government Energy Partnership (LGEP)

The LGEP hosted a March 24 webinar with SolSmart and the Solar Foundation that focused on inspection and permitting of solar facilities. The webinar was geared towards municipal staff and included best practices and opportunities for streamlining processes.

### Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The April 21 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting includes Board and Working Group reports, a policy report, and the Regional Sustainability Agenda.

- Regional Sustainability Dashboard: MORPC Team Members continue working with CURA at OSU to coordinate future updates to the Sustainability Dashboard, including considerations for any new metrics resulting from the updated Regional Sustainability Agenda. An April 30 webinar highlighting the Dashboard is planned.
- Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee (RSA) continues to meet monthly and is focused on metrics and data evaluation for tracking progress toward the new objectives. Before finalizing the agenda in April, MORPC is taking public input and seeking diverse stakeholders to provide feedback on what is being proposed. Input is being encouraged through a survey at [www.morpc.org/RSA-survey](http://www.morpc.org/RSA-survey). An informational "Lunch & Learn" presentation about the Regional Sustainability Agenda took place virtually March 26.
- Outreach: MORPC is closing out Earth Month with a virtual Lunch & Learn webinar on April 30 at noon to celebrate sustainable initiatives in the region. The webinar will be hosted on Zoom in partnership with CURA at OSU; more information to come.

### Diversity & Inclusion (D&I)

Team Members finalized the YWCA Columbus partnership for four workshops for members and community partners. The 2021 Weatherization flyers were updated in Spanish and Somali. Regional Mobility Plan surveys and maps were created in Spanish and Somali along with other essential documents.

### Membership Services

Membership Services continues to serve through monthly forums for Central Ohio Local Governments. Team Members completed several member visits, attended State of the Cities presentations, and conducted a new board member mini orientation.

Work continues on the 2021 Summer Intern Program. Team Members conducted interviews and matched students to governments, participated in the OSU Knowlton Career Fair, and held mini orientations for interns currently in the field. Two more hosts were added to the program.

### Upcoming Events

Save the Date for the Ohio Conference on Freight held virtually May 20-21, 2021. More details to come.

### MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at [www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews](http://www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews).

### Housing

The Franklin County Urgent Needs (FCUN) 2018 program is nearing completion. Team Members are working hard to make up for the COVID delays. Several projects are in production for the FCUN 2019 program and many are in the inspection and work write-up stages. The COCIC home repair program is leveraged with the FCUN program and are many of the first projects worked on by Team Members.

### WarmChoice

Production for March 2021: 73 initial inspections and 37 completions. Production year-to-date: 156 initial inspections and 120 completions.

### HWAP

Production has increased and should finish March strong. Fourteen jobs are in various stages of production. Roughly half of those are in the weatherization work/final inspection state with more completions expected soon.

Team Members are still working through the HWAP remote monitoring process.

### Information Technology Updates

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Team continues to conduct phish email testing. The prone to phish rate is at 5.1% in March. Users who fail the test receive required video-based training. ITS completed storage expansion to virtual servers. The Team deployed a virtual desktop interface for working remotely. ITS replaced NetExtender in two days due to hardware failure and repaired the Gohio hub web site and server after a virus attack. Adequate actions with additional protection were applied.

### Personnel Updates

MORPC is currently recruiting for five (5) open positions:

- Communications & Engagement/Residential Services Executive Assistant
- Transportation & Infrastructure Development Engineer/Planner/Modeler
- Transportation & Infrastructure Development Executive Planning Assistant
- Transportation & Infrastructure Development Intern (Modeler)
- Transportation & Infrastructure Development Transit Planner

The following are in the offering stage or onboarding soon:

- Data Analyst for the Data & Mapping Department
- Planning Intern for the Planning & Sustainability Department
- Program Assistant for the Residential Services Department

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

### RFP/RFQ Postings

The following RFP's/RFQ's were posted:

- RFQ for HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Program
- RFQ for Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Program

The full RFP/RFQs are available at <http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfq/>.



## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2021  
Time: 2:56 p.m.  
Location: Video/Audio Conference

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### **Transportation Policy Committee Members**

Chris Amorose Groomes	LaGrieta Holloway	Bryan Rhoads
Mike Anderson	Tom Homan	Eric Richter
Karen Angelou	Melanie Houston	Ryan Rivers
Herb Asher	Matt Huffman	Cornell Robertson
Trudy Bartley	Pamela Hykes O'Grady	Derek Robinson
Beth Beatty	Monica Irelan	Allen Rothermel
Stacey Boumis	Laurie Jadwin	Lauren Rummel
Ron Bullard	Erik Janas	Michael Schadek
Greg Butcher	Tom Johnson	Jim Schimmer
Ben Collins	Steve Kennedy	Steve Schoeny
Michelle Crandall	Benjamin King	Kim Sharp for Joanna
Karl Craven	Bill LaFayette	Pinkerton
Kristen Easterday	Greg Lestini	Alana Shockey
Brad Ebersole	Jill Love	Thom Slack
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Kim Maggard	Ike Stage
Misty Froehlich	Glenn Marzluf	Christie Ward
Matt Greeson	Dana McDaniel	Nancy White
Chris Harkness	Rory McGuinness	
Alex Heckman	Bonnie Michael	

### **Commission Members**

Joe Antram	Terry Emery	David Scheffler
Paul Benedetti	Bill Habig	Chris Schmenk
Ben Carpenter	Tim Hansley	Andy Ware
Franklin Christman	Herb Koehler	R.C. Wise
Thom Collier	Eric Phillips	
Joy Davis	Bill Pursel	

### **Associate Members**

Nikki Scarpitti

### **MORPC Staff**

Kerstin Carr	Niel Jurist	Bevan Schneck
Thea Ewing	Eileen Leuby	Brian Shang
Mary Ann Frantz	Dina Lopez	Hosana Tekie
Joe Garrity	Cheri Mansperger	Susan Tsen
Ted Geer	Amanda McEldowney	Brandi Whetstone
Nick Gill	William Murdock	Robert Williams
Ralonda Hampton	Shari Saunders	
Shawn Hufstедler	Aaron Schill	

### **Guests**

Christie Angel, YWCA Columbus	Jillian Olinger, YWCA Columbus
Lori Duguid, ODOT District 6	Asti Powell, City of Chillicothe
Shane Farnsworth, Jackson Township	Nick Soulas, FCEO
Jay Johnson, Ohio University	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
P'Elizabeth Koelker, City of Grandview Heights	Brent Welch, FCEO

**Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Karen Angelou called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:56 p.m.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization Report**

- **Transportation & Infrastructure Development – Thea Ewing, MORPC  
Transportation & Infrastructure Development Director**

Thea Ewing shared the [2021 TRAC Process](#) and timeline. The MORPC Team Lead is Dina Lopez. The Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) commits ODOT funding for major new capacity projects. The TRAC cycle was suspended in 2020. They are now accelerating the 2021 process. This is for all major new projects going through funding through October. Applicants can edit or renew 2020 applications. Applications are due March 26.

MORPC is accepting public comments on Attributable Funds projects through March 28. A total of more than \$211 million in future funding commitments is being proposed over 39 projects. This includes 12 new projects that make up more than \$77 million. All projects take place during state fiscal years 2022 to 2027. The final slate of projects will be presented at the May meeting.

Ms. Ewing drew attention to the TIP Amendment Resolution on the Consent Agenda. The resolution includes an adjustment from COTA to prepare for a capital improvement grant for the future of high-capacity corridor planning in the region.

Ms. Ewing announced that the Capital Advantage Projects presentation on the agenda will be moved to the April meeting.

**Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**

Ike Stage made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Kim Maggard; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2021  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Video/Audio Conference

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### **Commission Members**

Chris Amorose Groomes  
Mike Anderson  
Karen Angelou  
Joe Antram  
Herb Asher  
Trudy Bartley  
Beth Beatty  
Paul Benedetti  
Stacey Boumis  
Ron Bullard  
Greg Butcher  
Ben Carpenter  
Franklin Christman  
Thom Collier  
Ben Collins  
Michelle Crandall  
Karl Craven  
Joy Davis  
Brad Ebersole  
Terry Emery  
Cindi Fitzpatrick  
Misty Froehlich

Matt Greeson  
Bill Habig  
Tim Hansley  
Alex Heckman  
Tom Homan  
Melanie Houston  
Matt Huffman  
Pamela Hykes O'Grady  
Monica Irelan  
Laurie Jadwin  
Erik Janas  
Tom Johnson  
Steve Kennedy  
Benjamin King  
Herb Koehler  
Bill LaFayette  
Greg Lestini  
Jill Love  
Kim Maggard  
Glenn Marzluf  
Dana McDaniel  
Rory McGuinness

Bonnie Michael  
Eric Phillips  
Bill Pursel  
Bryan Rhoads  
Eric Richter  
Ryan Rivers  
Cornell Robertson  
Derek Robinson  
Allen Rothermel  
Lauren Rummel  
Michael Schadek  
David Scheffler  
Jim Schimmer  
Chris Schmenk  
Steve Schoeny  
Alana Shockey  
Ike Stage  
Christie Ward  
Andy Ware  
Nancy White  
R.C. Wise

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members**

Kristen Easterday  
Chris Harkness

LaGrieta Holloway  
Kim Sharp for  
Joanna Pinkerton

Thom Slack

### **Associate Members**

Nikki Scarpitti

### **MORPC Staff**

Kerstin Carr  
Thea Ewing  
Mary Ann Frantz  
Joe Garrity  
Ted Geer  
Nick Gill  
Ralonda Hampton  
Shawn Hufstedler

Níel Jurist  
Eileen Leuby  
Dina Lopez  
Cheri Mansperger  
Amanda McEldowney  
William Murdock  
Shari Saunders  
Aaron Schill

Bevan Schneck  
Brian Shang  
Hosana Tekie  
Susan Tsen  
Brandi Whetstone  
Robert Williams

### **Guests Present**

Christie Angel, YWCA Columbus  
Lori Duguid, ODOT District 6  
Shane Farnsworth, Jackson Township  
Jay Johnson, Ohio University  
P'Elizabeth Koelker, City of Grandview Heights

Jillian Olinger, YWCA Columbus  
Asti Powell, City of Chillicothe  
Nick Soulas, FCEO  
Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter  
Brent Welch, FCEO



**Meeting Called to Order – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair**

Chair Karen Angelou called the Commission meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Angelou shared her thoughts of the last year on the anniversary of our last regular in-person Commission meeting in 2020. The challenge of 2020 became opportunities to convene our members to fight a global pandemic. Of the many things we have learned this year, three rose to the top:

- MORPC members are willing to work together for all communities
- MORPC is willing to take on all challenges and opportunities to solve problems
- Our region members and staff are hard-working, smart, caring and resilient

Chair Angelou reported the MORPC officers and leadership met virtually with representatives from the Central Ohio Congressional Delegation February 24 and 25. It was an opportunity to thank Representatives Balderson, Beatty and Stivers for their swift action on the Cares Act and relief bill. Congratulations to Rep. Joyce Beatty on her election as the Congressional Black Caucus Chair.

Chair Angelou asked for a moment of silence for former commission member, Pat Monahan. The Honorable Patrick “Pat” Monahan, former Mayor of the Village of Shawnee Hills, passed away last month after fighting a courageous battle with cancer.

**Nominating Committee Report – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Secretary**

Chris Amorose Groomes reported the Nominating Committee memo was included in the meeting materials. She thanked fellow Nominating Committee members Mike Schadek, Nancy White, Franklin Christman and Jeff Benton. The committee reviewed the terms of Executive Committee members. There are no present vacancies. The committee recommends continuation of the existing executive board and their appropriate term sequence. Recommendations will be voted on at the April 8 Commission Meeting.

**Recognition of Guests – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer**

Eileen Leuby welcomed guests: Lori Duguid, ODOT 6; Jay Johnson, Ohio University; Jillian Ollinger, YWCA Columbus; and Asti Powell, City of Chillicothe.

**One MORPC One Voice: YWCA Columbus – Christie Angel, YWCA Columbus President & CEO**

Chair Angelou welcomed and introduced One MORPC One Voice Speaker Christie Angel. Ms. Angel is a wonderful partner and friend to MORPC and to many of our board members. MORPC is proud to have announced our new partnership with YWCA Columbus and we appreciate their work and leadership in our region.

Ms. Angel is joined by Jillian Ollinger, YWCA Columbus Chief Mission Officer. Ms. Ollinger and her colleague, Caroline Woolever are part of the leadership and social justice team that will be working with MORPC. Ms. Angel introduced the YWCA Columbus’s new work on [Leadership & Social Justice](#).

The case for supporting leadership and social justice is built around the ambivalence in the existence and the impact of systemic racism in the United States. Ms. Angel touched on racism

in healthcare, in the workplace, in leadership, in policing and housing. We cannot just have diversity in the workplace, we also need it in leadership. The data Ms. Angel shared helped inform their work in developing the suite of services they are offering.

The YWCA Columbus Logic Model is for bringing racial equity forward through education, engagement and empowerment. Their mission is to eliminate racism and empower women.

The Signature Platforms of YWCA Columbus' Advocacy and Engagement Work are:

- Policies and funding that support the core work of their service delivery programs
- Policies that support the social justice and the elimination of racism and other forms of discrimination
- Policies that support the empowerment of women and girls

The Core Work Issues for 2021 and 2022 are housing justice, education/childcare, social justice/eliminating racism, and economic empowerment.

The YWCA Advocacy Agenda and Advocacy Toolkit are available at [ywcacolumbus.org](http://ywcacolumbus.org).

Specific goals and measurements will be developed by this time next year. YWCA Columbus wants to do community surveys before putting out the goals.

#### **Executive Director's Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director**

William Murdock thanked Christie Angel for speaking today. Mr. Murdock noted it has been one year since MORPC made the transition to virtual meetings. He thanked Commission members for being with MORPC during this time. We are nearing almost 100 people at each Commission meeting. As MORPC looks to return to the office, we are incorporating remote features so members can always participate.

Mr. Murdock welcomed guest Shane Farnsworth from Jackson Township.

Mr. Murdock is excited for the City of Columbus. Earlier this week they passed their Vision Zero Action Plan. The goal of vision zero is to reduce deaths and serious injuries in our transportation system to zero. Jennifer Gallagher and her team have been a driving force behind this effort. MORPC is happy to support the effort and to work regionally to make sure that this work connects to work around the region.

MORPC is seeking letters of support from communities in the region regarding passenger rail. Amtrak approached Central Ohio with their plans for reauthorization to confirm our interest in adding to their map to seek federal funds. This may be a way to connect Central Ohio to the national rail system for passengers. It includes connections to Dayton and Cleveland. We will send a template for a support letter in the post meeting email.

MORPC has been announcing our State of the Region awards winners. Last week we announced Mayor Kim Maggard received the William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award. Today we announced Trudy Bartley received the Regional Leadership Award. MORPC is proud to call them friends and members of MORPC. Their leadership means so much to our organization and communities. We will celebrate them at the end of March at the State of the Region.

Jonathan Rose is the keynote for the State of the Region. He will speak on well-tempered communities. Mr. Murdock asked members to register for the March 31 program.

Mr. Murdock shared the dates for the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training, in partnership with YWCA Columbus:

- Tuesday, April 20, 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 29, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, May 6, 2 p.m.

He thanked Ralonda Hampton for bringing the training to MORPC members.

Mr. Murdock encouraged members to participate in the YWCA Columbus 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge March 1-29.

MORPC is focused on what might be light at the end of the tunnel for COVID-19. Our offices are closed to in-person meetings through at least April 30. We are monitoring the health situation and the vaccination availability. About one-fourth of our staff is in the field working safely in homes for weatherization and home repairs.

The office renovation work is almost done. It includes new meeting rooms for members. Every room will have remote connections, better sound and visibility. We were able to refresh the office in a frugal and expedited way while the office workers were out of the building. A virtual tour is coming.

MORPC's strategic framework continues to advance. Mr. Murdock thanked those who participated in the broadband and housing sessions. The next session on April 23 focuses on Member Resources. Mr. Murdock thanked Thea Ewing for her leadership on the effort.

The Rapid 5 partnership with ULI Columbus kicks-off in April. The project will look at the centrally located greenways in Central Ohio to re-envision and imagine new connections, identify low hanging fruit connections into neighborhoods, and find ways to leverage our greenways system into something even better. Mr. Murdock thanked the confirmed funders.

The Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition is an opportunity to connect different efforts across the region around digital access, digital literacy, broadband infrastructure, and more. Aaron Schill is the MORPC lead for the project.

There is still time to procure a Summer Local Government Intern. MORPC has placed 16 interns and have many more students looking for placement this summer. MORPC does the matchmaking for the students and communities and provides additional help/education for the students.

The first Regional Housing Strategy Peer Exchange is March 18 and is focused specifically on zoning codes.

Aaron Schill will be a featured speaker at the March 24 Columbus Metropolitan Club Forum, Solving the Affordable Housing Puzzle.

Mr. Murdock introduced Voinovich Academy for Excellence in Public Service Director Jay Johnson who shared two opportunities Ohio University is partnering with MORPC for local governments in Central Ohio.

Governing Essentials for Local Elected Officials is designed for our newly elected officials or those experienced officials seeking a refresher to promote a high-level understanding of topics that are essential to effective service. The program is organized to fit demanding schedules. All sessions include practical information plus opportunities to network and collaborate with peers. Registration begins March 15.

The Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs Partnership provides a tuition scholarship up to \$1,000 for MORPC members and their employees toward an Executive Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program or an Online Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program. Visit [onlinemasters.ohio.edu/MORPC](https://onlinemasters.ohio.edu/MORPC) for more information.

### **Committees**

#### **Regional Data Advisory Committee – Brad Ebersole (Delaware County), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair**

Brad Ebersol reported the Regional Data Advisory Committee met March 2 and welcomed two new members: Drew Williams from the City of Columbus and Christina Drummond from Educopia Institute, a private nonprofit. The committee approved the updated Regional Data Agenda that the committee will carry forward and will frame priorities over the next couple years. The agenda will be presented to the Commission next month for adoption. Aaron Schill will present a more complete update on Census 2020 next month.

#### **Regional Policy Roundtable – Ben Collins (Plain Township), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair**

Ben Collins presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). The Roundtable met February 23 and heard from Kyle Strickland of the Kirwan Institute and Roosevelt Institute and Aslyne Rodriguez of COTA. The next Roundtable meeting is April 27.

- **Legislative Update – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joe Garrity, MORPC Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives**

Steve Tugend and Joe Garrity gave the legislative update highlighting the following:

- The Executive Officers and lead staff met with the Central Ohio Congressional Delegation
- American Rescue Plan – COVID Relief
- Potential opportunity for Congressional earmarks
- State Transportation Budget
- HB110 – State Operating Budget
- State Advocacy Efforts
- Pursuing legislation to give regional councils a heightened role in selecting broadband projects that merit funding
- Central Ohio Defense Group
- Moratorium on changing the way municipal income taxes are levied on those working from home until 30 days after the health crisis is over
- Township members are able to get dollars directly from the American Rescue Plan

See the [March 2021 Monthly Legislative Update](#) for other legislative news.

**Sustainability Advisory Committee – Jim Schimmer (Franklin County), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair**

Jim Schimmer presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). MORPC is hosting a Solar Inspection and Permitting Webinar on March 25. The webinar will focus on best practices and opportunities to streamline services for solar development in communities. The Ohio Siting board is looking at 70 solar projects in Ohio.

Work continues on updating the Regional Sustainability Agenda with equity as a core guiding principal. There are measurable objectives for each goal that will be tracked on the Regional Sustainability Dashboard. Strategies are included to create a framework for Sustainable2050 members to earn their tier status certification.

MORPC and Bexley's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee hosted a virtual Environmental Sustainability Forum on February 25. The forum brought together representatives from local environmental sustainability groups as well as the formal resident advisory committees that have been established by local governments. Through this conversation they are finding common interests and opportunities for future collaboration. MORPC will provide support to host more of these forums. A special thank you to Mayor Ben Kessler for his support.

- **Central Ohio Greenways Story Map – Kerstin Carr, MORPC Planning & Sustainability Director**

Kerstin Carr gave a demonstration of the online [Central Ohio Greenways Story Map](#). The story map is the result of work between MORPC's Planning & Sustainability and Data & Mapping Teams with support from the Franklin County Engineer's Office and City of Columbus Public Service. The map shows the existing 230 miles of scenic highway use trails and the vision to add 500 new miles to the exiting trail network. The map demonstrates where strategic new investments in trail infrastructure has the potential to impact the region most dramatically and will help prioritize the trail project.

About 14 percent of Franklin County's population can walk safely to a trail. With the proposed new trails, about 40 percent of Franklin County's population would have access to the entire trail network. With additional strategic on-road pedestrian and bicycle investments, the number of people with access to trails could increase much further.

The system was segmented into 53 unique segments that could be standalone trail projects. The segments were prioritized based on four criteria around connectivity, health and the environment, social equity, and economy.

Other features of the map include:

- Impact of adding 50 miles of roadways to the network
- Impact of filling geographic gaps
- Analysis of making sure Franklin County's lowest income population has access
- Overlay of the Regional Trail Vision with regional mobility

Dr. Carr thanked MORPC Team Members Melinda Vonstein and Cheri Mansperger for their work on the story map.

- **Proposed Resolution 02-21: “Authorizing the executive director to contract with Sonoma Technology, Inc. to provide air quality forecasting services” – Kerstin Carr, MORPC Planning & Sustainability Director**

Pamela Hykes O’Grady made a motion to approve Proposed Resolution 02-21, second by Bill LaFayette; motion passed.

**Transportation Policy Committee – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair**

Chair Angelou called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:56 p.m. The session adjourned at 3:02 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

**Commission Consent Agenda**

Tom Homan made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by Greg Lestini; motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Secretary

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**Memorandum**

**TO:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Executive Committee  
Officers and Board Members

**FROM:** Aaron Schill, Director, Data & Mapping

**DATE:** April 5, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 03-21: **“Adoption of MORPC’s 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda”**

This resolution formally adopts the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda. The Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) collaborated to create a robust and well-defined agenda centered around data. It comprises six overarching goals and 23 objectives that directly represent the interests and concerns of Central Ohio.

The Regional Data Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the final 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda at its March 2, 2021 meeting.

The 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda serves as a framework for MORPC's staff and members to guide the future of data activities in the region. The Regional Data Agenda identifies specific projects to be undertaken to support the overarching data objectives and MORPC's role around data in the region.

The RDAC agreed to a two-year timeframe for the Regional Data Agenda to ensure that the goals, objectives, and action items remain relevant and appropriate to a rapidly changing data and technology landscape. Prioritization of work within the existing agenda will be reviewed and updated on a continual basis; however, at the end of the two-year timeframe, the full agenda will be reviewed, edited, and re-written as necessary.

Attachment: Resolution 03-21



## RESOLUTION 03-21

### **“Adoption of MORPC's 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda”**

WHEREAS, members of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Board and the Regional Data Advisory Committee collaborated to create a robust and well-defined 2019-2020 Regional Data Agenda; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Regional Data Agenda was adopted by MORPC Members on October 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Data Agenda is in need of update and revision to support MORPC's ongoing vision of a diverse community of local governments and stakeholders collaborating on data-related practices, opportunities, and tools to support regional growth and vitality in the Central Ohio region; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda provides a framework for the goals and objectives that guide MORPC's Regional Data Advisory Committee, working groups, members, and staff; and

WHEREAS, Goal 1 is “In its role as a convener and facilitator, MORPC will foster collaboration among local governments, partners, and stakeholders to enhance the use of data in Central Ohio”; and

WHEREAS, Goal 2 is “MORPC will support and provide opportunities for data capacity building and education that increase both the human and technological capabilities of the Region”; and

WHEREAS, Goal 3 is “MORPC will promote good data governance and practices that protect local governments and their citizens, and adapt to the evolving data and technology landscape”; and

WHEREAS, Goal 4 is “MORPC will continually innovate in its role as a data creator, user, and provider through ongoing data procurement and development”; and

WHEREAS, Goal 5 is “MORPC will advance regional digital equity and broadband infrastructure development efforts that work to provide connectivity and technology to all Central Ohio residents”; and

WHEREAS, Goal 6 is “MORPC will serve as a model for data access, inclusion, and equity, ensuring the benefits and opportunities data can create are extended to all Central Ohio residents”; and

WHEREAS, MORPC is committed to furthering data initiatives that contribute to the overall health, quality of life and economic prosperity of the region; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That it supports and adopts the 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda.

Section 2. That the Executive Director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Section 3. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

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Karen Angelou, Chair

**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Effective date: April 8, 2021  
Submitted by: Aaron Schill, Director, Data and Mapping  
Prepared by: Aaron Schill, Director, Data and Mapping  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: April 8, 2021  
Attachment: 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda

# REGIONAL DATA AGENDA 2021-2022



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

# REGIONAL DATA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

Under the guidance of the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC), the Regional Data Agenda is the guiding document for MORPC's work pertaining to data, mapping, and digital infrastructure.



## MISSION

The RDAC advances data policies and strategic actions to increase access to open data in Central Ohio.



## VISION

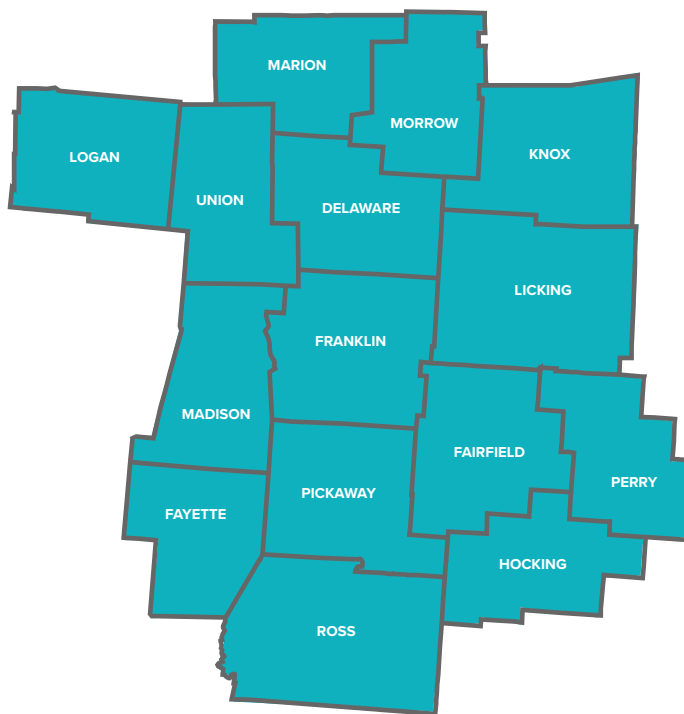
Central Ohio is a leader in using data to improve the quality of life for all residents.



## MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is Central Ohio's regional council for more than 70 members comprised of counties, cities, villages, townships, and regional organizations. We take pride in bringing communities of all sizes and interests together to collaborate on best practices and plan for the future of our growing region.

### MORPC'S SERVICE AREA



## WHAT WE DO:

- Serve as Central Ohio's regional council and leadership forum for shared regional challenges and best practices
- Convene local governments to plan, prioritize, and advance strategic transportation and infrastructure projects and investments
- Assist as a regional information hub with demographics, maps, tools, and data to inform decisions
- Provide technical assistance to communities with sustainability programs, growth planning, residential services, and shared solutions
- Work alongside community leaders, residents, and partner organizations to effectively represent the collective voice of our region on public policy

**GOAL 1: In its role as a convener and facilitator, MORPC will FOSTER COLLABORATION among local governments, partners, and stakeholders to enhance the use of data in Central Ohio.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
1.1 Convene meetings of local government staff responsible for creating and maintaining the region's data resources.	<p>1.1.1 Host quarterly meetings of the Central Ohio GIS Users Group (COGUG).</p> <p>1.1.2 Host quarterly meetings of Central Ohio Systems Management Organizational Sharing (COSMOS).</p> <p>1.1.3 Host quarterly meetings of the Regional Data and Information Group (RIDG).</p>
1.2 Support the creation and integration of local and regional open data resources.	<p>1.2.1 Maintain and expand the data and mapping resources available through MORPC's</p> <p>1.2.2 Mid-Ohio Open Data (MOOD) site.</p> <p>1.2.3 Increase the number of data providers that operate or provide their data to open data portals.</p> <p>1.2.4 Create a linked inventory of open data portals that are relevant to Central Ohio data users.</p> <p>1.2.5 Provide guidance to local governments in the creation and management of open data resources.</p>
1.3 Expand MORPC's data partnerships with other organizations.	<p>1.3.1 Document and communicate the nature of MORPC's data partnerships with different organizations (this should build on MORPC's <u>Identifying Central Ohio Data User Audiences</u> research).</p> <p>1.3.2 Establish MORPC as a partner representing Columbus in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership.</p> <p>1.3.3 Identify data partnership targets and establish at least two new "Tier 1" data partners (see <u>Identifying Central Ohio Data User Audiences</u>).</p> <p>1.3.4 Feature current and prospective data partner spotlights at RDAC meetings.</p> <p>1.3.5 Build partnerships with associations of Central Ohio data leaders, such as the Central Ohio CIO Forum, Columbus CDO Forum, Women in Analytics, and Black Tech Columbus.</p>
1.4 Promote data-centered local decision-making.	<p>1.4.1 Develop best-practice case studies on how data can be used to make better policy decisions.</p>

**GOAL 2: MORPC will support and provide opportunities for data CAPACITY BUILDING & EDUCATION that increase both the human and technological capabilities of the region.**

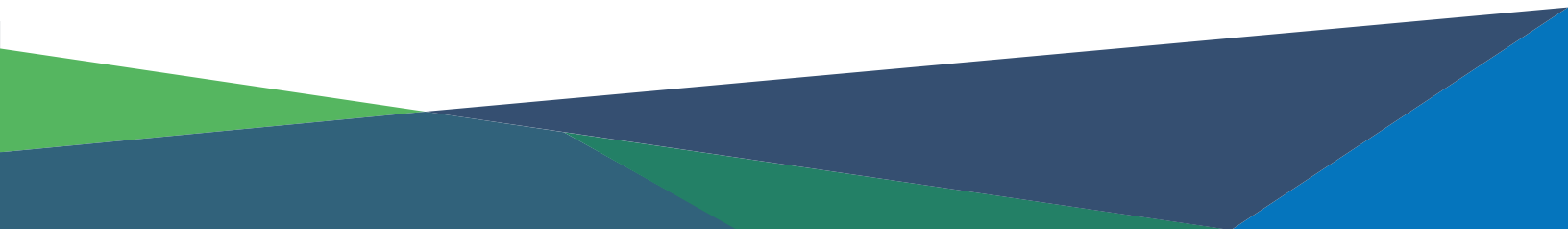
OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
2.1 Develop a MORPC Data Academy that builds technical capacity for defined user groups/target audiences.	<p>2.1.1 Develop different tracks and curricula for different audiences (basic data literacy, effective data storytelling, etc.).</p> <p>2.1.2 Identify community partners and funders to ensure broad access and participation.</p> <p>2.1.3 Hold one MORPC Data Academy.</p>
2.2 Connect local governments to the civic tech community by organizing and participating in hackathon and mapathon events.	<p>2.2.1 MORPC staff to sponsor a use case or serve as a judge for at least one hackathon or other civic tech event.</p> <p>2.2.2 Work with a partner organization to host a hackathon or mapathon event focused on local government and issues of regional significance.</p>
2.3 Establish a regional Data Day to promote data education and access throughout Central Ohio.	<p>2.3.1 Build funding support and partnerships for a one-day, data-focused event.</p> <p>2.3.2 Host a regional Data Day.</p>
2.4 Proactively support and produce communications that promote data literacy and awareness of Central Ohio data resources.	<p>2.4.1 Demonstrate the value of regional data through a series of blog posts or news stories analyzing important regional trends.</p> <p>2.4.2 Host in-person and virtual events to highlight available data resources and enhance data literacy.</p> <p>2.4.3 Develop templates and best practices for local governments to improve communications using data.</p> <p>2.4.4 Capitalize on MORPC's existing communications channels to increase messaging about data resources and practices.</p> <p>2.4.5 Review MORPC's digital and print materials to ensure they demonstrate good data communications practices.</p>
2.5 Pursue projects and initiatives that keep Central Ohio at the forefront of data and technology innovation.	<p>2.5.1 Support innovation in Central Ohio by maintaining a leadership role with Smart Columbus and seeking opportunities to collaborate.</p> <p>2.5.2 Pursue one new project per year that advances MORPC's data analytics or technological capacity.</p>

**GOAL 3: MORPC will promote good data GOVERNANCE & PRACTICES that protect local governments and their citizens, and adapt to the evolving data and technology landscape.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
<b>3.1 Encourage the adoption of good data policies by member communities.</b>	<b>3.1.1</b> Conduct an audit of MORPC's current data governance policies. <b>3.1.2</b> Implement new, comprehensive data governance policies for MORPC to serve as a model for local governments. <b>3.1.3</b> Compile best practices for data governance. <b>3.1.4</b> Publish a data governance, management, and security toolkit for local governments. <b>3.1.5</b> Advocate for data-driven policy formation and decision-making in local governments.
<b>3.2 Partner with the Regional Policy Roundtable to advocate for strong, open, and inclusive data policies and funding at the federal and state levels.</b>	<b>3.2.1</b> Continue to monitor federal and state legislation for data-related public policies. <b>3.2.2</b> When appropriate, provide testimony or other input to legislators to further the goals set forth in the Regional Data Agenda.
<b>3.3 Track and develop guidance on emerging data policy issues.</b>	<b>3.3.1</b> Maintain a list of emerging data issues that are important to local governments (e.g., revenue generation from data, incorporating blockchain into local government, etc.). <b>3.3.2</b> Solicit expert guidance to ensure RDAC members are up-to-date on emerging issues. <b>3.3.3</b> Publish briefings/fact sheets on emerging issues for MORPC members.
<b>3.4 Promote standardization of data across local governments in Central Ohio.</b>	<b>3.4.1</b> Develop and encourage adoption of standard schemas, when appropriate, for common datasets that are collected by local governments across the region.

**GOAL 4: MORPC will continually innovate in its role as a data creator, user, and provider through ongoing DATA PROCUREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
<b>4.1 Inventory and structure MORPC's data resources to improve usability, eliminate redundancy, and enhance coordination with other data providers.</b>	<b>4.1.1</b> Create a comprehensive inventory of datasets that MORPC maintains. <b>4.1.2</b> Develop a new internal data structure that makes data more discoverable and accessible to MORPC staff and easier to share with external users.
<b>4.2 Identify priority data discovery areas – new datasets that are important to MORPC's work and to the region.</b>	<b>4.2.1</b> Regularly survey local governments and other partners to identify new data needs. <b>4.2.2</b> Maintain a prioritized list of regionally important data discovery topics to pursue. <b>4.2.3</b> As project needs require, pursue new sources and formats of data.
<b>4.3 Create and maintain regional datasets that are populated by local governments.</b>	<b>4.3.1</b> Expand the regional mapping datasets that MORPC currently maintains (address points, centerlines, bikeways, sidewalks) by adding new community editors. <b>4.3.2</b> Create one new regional mapping dataset.
<b>4.4 Increase the amount, diversity, and efficiency of MORPC's data collection through automation.</b>	<b>4.4.1</b> Partner with local governments to automate the collection of development tracking data, including building permits, and development proposals, approvals and denials. <b>4.4.2</b> Develop scripting to automate the collection and processing of frequently used datasets.



**GOAL 5: MORPC will advance regional DIGITAL EQUITY & BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT efforts that work to provide connectivity and technology to all Central Ohio residents.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
<b>5.1 Promote broadband access and adoption for all Central Ohio residents.</b>	<b>5.1.1</b> Establish Central Ohio as the first region in the country recognized as a Digital Inclusion Trailblazer by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. <b>5.1.2</b> Improve mapping of broadband coverage across the Central Ohio region. <b>5.1.3</b> Support projects and funding that bring broadband to unserved and underserved areas (especially rural and low-income urban areas).
<b>5.2 Encourage the construction of digital infrastructure through existing and new funding sources.</b>	<b>5.2.1</b> Pursue and support local government efforts to secure state and federal funding to build digital infrastructure, particularly in unserved and underserved areas.
<b>5.3 Build capacity and collaboration in Central Ohio to address digital equity needs.</b>	<b>5.3.1</b> Serve in a leadership role on the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition. <b>5.3.2</b> Work with the Ohio Association of Regional Councils to define a role for regional councils in working on digital equity needs.

**GOAL 6: MORPC will serve as a model for DATA ACCESS, INCLUSION, & EQUITY, ensuring the benefits and opportunities data can create are extended to all Central Ohio residents. *(Equity is a fundamental value underpinning all of MORPC's work. As such, all of MORPC's data work and all components of the agenda are undertaken with an emphasis on racial and social equity.)***

OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
<b>6.1 Track data related to MORPC's agency-wide diversity and inclusion efforts.</b>	<b>6.1.1</b> Support efforts to track MORPC's internal diversity & inclusion priorities. <b>6.1.2</b> Maintain and update information in MORPC's Central Ohio Diversity Snapshot.
<b>6.2 Develop tools and services that enhance the ability of users with varying skill levels to access and benefit from data about Central Ohio.</b>	<b>6.2.1</b> Expand on user experience research and user acceptance testing to improve understanding of our audiences' needs and capabilities. <b>6.2.2</b> Research best practices on making data resources accessible to audiences with low data literacy. <b>6.2.3</b> Ensure all MORPC data resources follow state-of-the-practice standards for developing accessible technology. <b>6.2.4</b> Create community partnerships to provide free/reduced-cost data and mapping services to underserved populations. <b>6.2.5</b> Utilize MORPC's data resources to understand and address social equity issues in Central Ohio (e.g., income disparity, housing affordability, etc.).
<b>6.3 Reduce the detrimental effects of implicit bias in MORPC's data collection, analyses, and products.</b>	<b>6.3.1</b> Research and adopt methods for assessing and, when possible, correcting for implicit biases in datasets with which MORPC works. <b>6.3.2</b> Develop guidance to help local governments understand and evaluate biases that exist in data.





MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

**Executive Director**

William Murdock, AICP

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DATA SUPPORT:**

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## Memorandum

**TO:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Executive Committee  
Officers and Board Members

**FROM:** Kerstin Carr, Director  
Planning & Sustainability

**DATE:** April 5, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Proposed Resolution 04-21: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement for consulting services to perform a Greenways Visioning Process and Community Outreach”**

Central Ohio has an extensive waterway system. Historically, access to these resources has been unevenly distributed, remained disconnected from a larger system, and many waterways have suffered environmental damage. Over the past decades, individual jurisdictions, Metro Parks, and Central Ohio Greenways have made dramatic improvements through trail expansion and conservation efforts which in return have resulted in better water quality.

Central Ohio now has the opportunity to create a comprehensive vision for these waterways and build on the existing work that has been done over the years with a goal to create one of the largest interconnected greenspace systems in the country. This vision will have the potential to redefine the region and connect our residents with an extensive park and trail network unparalleled in the nation. A reimagined greenspace system in Central Ohio will connect our community to the many beautiful natural resources and particularly enhance connections to our disadvantaged neighborhoods to increase their quality of life. The implementation of such a system has the potential for residents to move around the region for commuting, recreation, and other activities along more diverse greenspaces, equitable connectivity to greenspace, and better linkage from neighborhoods to job centers through greenspace.

ULI Columbus has partnered with MORPC to initiate and lead the RAPID 5 project. ULI Columbus and MORPC have a long history of collaborating on regional initiatives, such as insight2050 and insight2050 Corridor Concepts, and to bring non-profit, public, and private partners together. Over the past two months, ULI Columbus and MORPC have collectively raised over \$400,000 and expect to reach up to \$500,000 in funding. A large part of that funding will be used to support the first phase of the visioning process. Another part will support the communications and outreach efforts. MORPC will administer the consultant or consultant team who will perform this visioning project, along with a steering committee.

Attachment: Resolution 04-21

## RESOLUTION 04-21

### **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement for consulting services to perform a Greenspace Visioning Process and Community Outreach”**

WHEREAS, ULI Columbus and MORPC have a long history of partnering on regional initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Central Ohio has an impressive waterways system that has the potential to redefine the region and connect our community with an extensive greenspace system unparalleled anywhere else; and

WHEREAS, ULI Columbus, in partnership with MORPC, is working with local governments, businesses, and residents to create this vision for an interconnected open space system that spans Franklin County and connects all residents; and

WHEREAS, several MORPC members, organizations, and businesses have committed funding to a visioning process; and

WHEREAS, MORPC will serve as the project administrator and contract with the consultant(s) to oversee and perform this visioning process; now therefore

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the executive director is hereby authorized to accept funding for and enter into an agreement with a qualified consultant or consultants for up to \$500,000 to conduct the visioning process and any related outreach and communications.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.
- Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

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Karen Angelou, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Effective date: April 8, 2021  
Submitted by: Kerstin Carr, Director of Planning & Sustainability  
Prepared by: Kerstin Carr, Director of Planning & Sustainability  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: April 8, 2021