

# 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

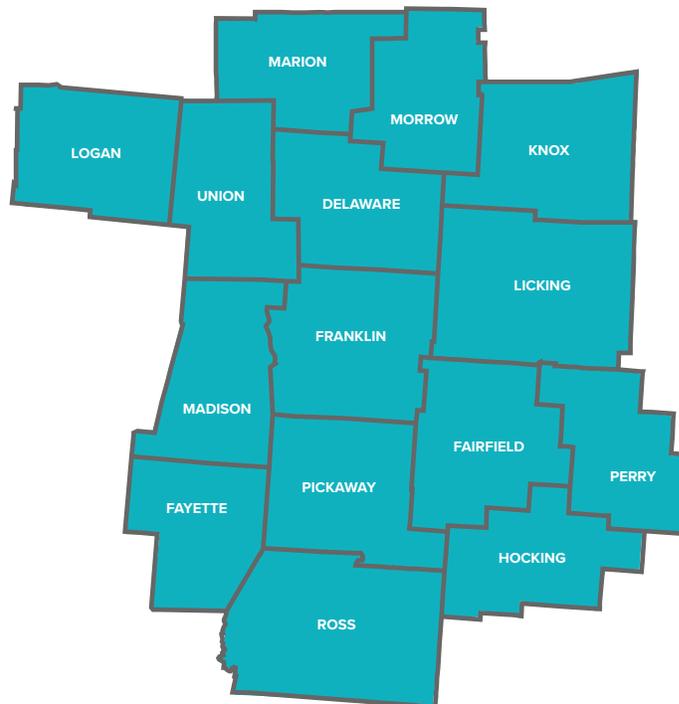
Central Ohio is a leader in using data to improve the quality of life for all residents.



# 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
<p><b>1.1 Convene meetings of local government staff responsible for creating and maintaining the region’s data resources.</b></p>	<p><b>1.1.1</b> Host quarterly meetings of the Central Ohio GIS Users Group (COGUG).  <b>1.1.2</b> Host quarterly meetings of Central Ohio Systems Management Organizational Sharing (COSMOS).  <b>1.1.3</b> Host quarterly meetings of the Regional Data and Information Group (RIDG).</p>
<p><b>1.2 Support the creation and integration of local and regional open data resources.</b></p>	<p><b>1.2.1</b> Maintain and expand the data and mapping resources available through MORPC’s  <b>1.2.2</b> Mid-Ohio Open Data (MOOD) site.  <b>1.2.3</b> Increase the number of data providers that operate or provide their data to open data portals.  <b>1.2.4</b> Create a linked inventory of open data portals that are relevant to Central Ohio data users.  <b>1.2.5</b> Provide guidance to local governments in the creation and management of open data resources.</p>
<p><b>1.3 Expand MORPC’s data partnerships with other organizations.</b></p>	<p><b>1.3.1</b> 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).  <b>1.3.2</b> Establish MORPC as a partner representing Columbus in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership.  <b>1.3.3</b> Identify data partnership targets and establish at least two new “Tier 1” data partners (see <u>Identifying Central Ohio Data User Audiences</u>).  <b>1.3.4</b> Feature current and prospective data partner spotlights at RDAC meetings.  <b>1.3.5</b> 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>
<p><b>1.4 Promote data-centered local decision-making.</b></p>	<p><b>1.4.1</b> 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
<p><b>2.1 Develop a MORPC Data Academy that builds technical capacity for defined user groups/target audiences.</b></p>	<p><b>2.1.1</b> Develop different tracks and curricula for different audiences (basic data literacy, effective data storytelling, etc.).  <b>2.1.2</b> Identify community partners and funders to ensure broad access and participation.  <b>2.1.3</b> Hold one MORPC Data Academy.</p>
<p><b>2.2 Connect local governments to the civic tech community by organizing and participating in hackathon and mapathon events.</b></p>	<p><b>2.2.1</b> MORPC staff to sponsor a use case or serve as a judge for at least one hackathon or other civic tech event.  <b>2.2.2</b> Work with a partner organization to host a hackathon or mapathon event focused on local government and issues of regional significance.</p>
<p><b>2.3 Establish a regional Data Day to promote data education and access throughout Central Ohio.</b></p>	<p><b>2.3.1</b> Build funding support and partnerships for a one-day, data-focused event.  <b>2.3.2</b> Host a regional Data Day.</p>
<p><b>2.4 Proactively support and produce communications that promote data literacy and awareness of Central Ohio data resources.</b></p>	<p><b>2.4.1</b> Demonstrate the value of regional data through a series of blog posts or news stories analyzing important regional trends.  <b>2.4.2</b> Host in-person and virtual events to highlight available data resources and enhance data literacy.  <b>2.4.3</b> Develop templates and best practices for local governments to improve communications using data.  <b>2.4.4</b> Capitalize on MORPC’s existing communications channels to increase messaging about data resources and practices.  <b>2.4.5</b> Review MORPC’s digital and print materials to ensure they demonstrate good data communications practices.</p>
<p><b>2.5 Pursue projects and initiatives that keep Central Ohio at the forefront of data and technology innovation.</b></p>	<p><b>2.5.1</b> Support innovation in Central Ohio by maintaining a leadership role with Smart Columbus and seeking opportunities to collaborate.  <b>2.5.2</b> 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
<p><b>3.1 Encourage the adoption of good data policies by member communities.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><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></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>3.3 Track and develop guidance on emerging data policy issues.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>3.4 Promote standardization of data across local governments in Central Ohio.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>

**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
<p><b>4.1 Inventory and structure MORPC’s data resources to improve usability, eliminate redundancy, and enhance coordination with other data providers.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>4.2 Identify priority data discovery areas – new datasets that are important to MORPC’s work and to the region.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>4.3 Create and maintain regional datasets that are populated by local governments.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>4.4 Increase the amount, diversity, and efficiency of MORPC’s data collection through automation.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>



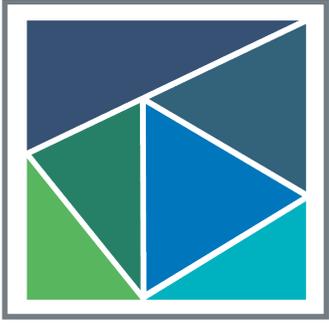
**GOAL 5: MORPC will advance regional DIGITAL EQUITY & BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT efforts that work to provide connectivity and technology to all Central Ohio residents.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION ITEM/INDICATOR
<p><b>5.1 Promote broadband access and adoption for all Central Ohio residents.</b></p>	<p><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.</p> <p><b>5.1.2</b> Improve mapping of broadband coverage across the Central Ohio region.</p> <p><b>5.1.3</b> Support projects and funding that bring broadband to unserved and underserved areas (especially rural and low-income urban areas).</p>
<p><b>5.2 Encourage the construction of digital infrastructure through existing and new funding sources.</b></p>	<p><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.</p>
<p><b>5.3 Build capacity and collaboration in Central Ohio to address digital equity needs.</b></p>	<p><b>5.3.1</b> Serve in a leadership role on the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition.</p> <p><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.</p>

**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
<p><b>6.1 Track data related to MORPC’s agency-wide diversity and inclusion efforts.</b></p>	<p><b>6.1.1</b> Support efforts to track MORPC’s internal diversity &amp; inclusion priorities.</p> <p><b>6.1.2</b> Maintain and update information in MORPC’s Central Ohio Diversity Snapshot.</p>
<p><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></p>	<p><b>6.2.1</b> Expand on user experience research and user acceptance testing to improve understanding of our audiences’ needs and capabilities.</p> <p><b>6.2.2</b> Research best practices on making data resources accessible to audiences with low data literacy.</p> <p><b>6.2.3</b> Ensure all MORPC data resources follow state-of-the-practice standards for developing accessible technology.</p> <p><b>6.2.4</b> Create community partnerships to provide free/reduced-cost data and mapping services to underserved populations.</p> <p><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.).</p>
<p><b>6.3 Reduce the detrimental effects of implicit bias in MORPC’s data collection, analyses, and products.</b></p>	<p><b>6.3.1</b> Research and adopt methods for assessing and, when possible, correcting for implicit biases in datasets with which MORPC works.</p> <p><b>6.3.2</b> Develop guidance to help local governments understand and evaluate biases that exist in data.</p>





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