Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee
Meeting Notes

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January 27, 2021, 1:00 pm

Members Present

James Mako, Fairfield County Regional
Planning Commission
Chair Justin Milam, City of Upper
    Arlington
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO

Basar Özbilen, OSU Knowlton
Nick Plouck, City of Dublin
Vice-Chair Alex Slaymaker, Columbus
    Partnership

Public Present
Jason Reece, OSU Knowlton

MORPC Staff Present

Ted Geer   Lynn Kaufman   Liz Whelan   Brandi Whetstone

Meeting Called to Order at 1:04 pm

Project Status
Chair Milam reported that the draft goals and objectives of the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) have been presented for review to this Subcommittee, the Sustainability Advisory Committee, and to Sustainable2050 members.

Equity Resource Document – *Dr. Jason Reece, OSU Knowlton School*
Dr. Reece reported that the focus of the Resource Guide is to provide a series of data sources, best practices and research-based framing of how to approach social equity concerns.

The guide will include the full details of:
• Potential metrics and other data considerations specifically for the equity objectives.
• Examples of peer (best practice) data tools to analyze equity elements.
• Strategies and best practices to foster robust engagement with equity communities.
• Strategies to understand social equity concerns across the urban, suburban, and rural landscapes.
• Examples of best practices (planning and policy) for integrating equity and sustainability.
• Inventory of additional resource tools (data, best practices).

Strategies: Review Major Themes From Survey
Brandi Whetstone reported that staff will ensure that the RSA strategies will align with existing MORPC plans and programs, including existing strategies members have been working toward, primarily activities eligible for Sustainable2050 certification. A final goal is to include an equity-focused strategy for each objective.

Goal 1

Objectives	Strategy Responses
1. Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.	Proposed revision: d. Participate in Gohio Commute <u>and other</u> workplace programs to encourage mode-shift.

Members suggested Objective 1 be changed to d. Participate in GohioCommute and or other workplace programs to encourage mode-shift.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
2. Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.	a. Define Green Fleet Certification- CFO program includes free technical resources to transition fleets. http://cleanfuelsohio.net/ohio-green-fleets/# c. Clarify Incentives - for increasing alt. fuel vehicles and infrastructure. d. Update "…to support <u>electric</u> vehicle use…" -Alternative fuel definition - natural gas, electricity, hydrogen, ethanol, biodiesel, and propane. (U.S. Dept of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center) -Add - EV charging ordinance.

Please see http://cleanfuelsohio.net/ohio-green-fleets/ for program details.
Chair Milam suggested having a broader scope of fuels as well as electric, as situations may change before the next update of the RSA.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
4. Increase the number of local renewable energy projects and generating capacity.	e. SolSmart - Recognizes cities, regional orgs. for making it easier to go solar (removing barriers, streamlining processes, etc). Includes free technical assistance. -Aligns with MORPC initiative to achieve regional SolSmart designation.

Please see https://www.morpc.org/program-service/local-government-energy-partnership/ for MORPC's SolSmart commitment.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
5. Reduce per capita and total greenhouse gas emissions.	Rationale – get members to start measuring emissions, data-driven approach. -Propose combining b. and c.: Create and/or implement an action plan <u>that includes goal-setting, targets, and strategies for meeting goals.</u> -New strategy for c. – Conduct inclusive stakeholder and public engagement <u>to identify equitable climate solutions</u> that meet the needs of diverse populations.

There were no Member comments on this objective.

Goal 2

Objectives	Strategy Responses
1. Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill through waste prevention and diversion.	Recommended modifications to be included: b. Promote food waste prevention, and implement food waste rescue, and composting programs d. Create a zero policy for events and provide supporting resources. (added) e. remove duplicate, covered by b (food waste rescue) f. support reuse and donations of items, such as computers… (broaden) Additional recommendations under review (below)
3. Improve water quality in central Ohio watersheds.	Disagree b. Utilize pesticides/herbicides responsibly or use organic alternatives. Clarification needed for "responsibly" and how it will be implemented. (tip from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District) -Consider revision: Use organic alternatives to pesticides and herbicides.
4. Increase the acreage of protected natural areas.	a. Clean Ohio program – Statewide funding program for green space preservation. -Want to encourage applications to the program to fund preservation activities, and for members to promote it as a valuable preservation tool (support for continued state funding) b. example - Franklin County combined charitable campaign and workplace giving program.

There were no Member comments on the objectives of Goal 2

Goal 3

Objectives	Strategy Responses
4. Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit and job centers.	b. Local Housing Action Agenda clarification – Identifies actions from Regional Housing Strategy to meet unique needs of individual communities and can include policies to encourage affordable housing

There were no Member comments on this objective.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
5. Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure.	b. Fix-it-first strategy clarification– Prioritize investment to maintain and repair existing/aging infrastructure first, before investing in new roads and adding to future repair burden. (members are familiar)

There were no Member comments on this objective.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
7. Increase air quality monitoring and data to address local disparities in pollution exposure and related health impacts.	Proposed revision b. Use data to identify disparities in air pollution levels across communities and work with community partners to target solutions to alleviate disparities.

There were no Member comments on this objective.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
8. Reduce environmental hazards that pose risks to public health and safety.	Proposed revision b. Encourage lead testing and educational programs in underserved communities <u>and phase out lead pipes.</u>

Member Özbilen suggested prioritizing underserved communities when possible. Staff noted that MORPC could encourage sustainable2050 members to do so. Dr. Reece added that OSU Kirwan has an analytical tool that may assist in identifying risk. This tool will be included in the Resource Guide.

Goal 4

Objectives	Strategy Responses
1. Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices.	Disagree a. Promote or participate in GreenSpot. -Suggestion to keep it open to variety of sustainability-focused workplace programs -proposed revision: Promote or participate in GreenSpot or other programs that establish commitments to sustainable practices.

Please see https://www.columbus.gov/greenspot/

Objectives	Strategy Responses
2. Advance sourcing and purchasing to support sustainable products and services.	Proposed revision b. Create sustainable purchasing policy or guidance that supports local, sustainable, <u>recycled content,</u> and socially-responsible products and services.

There were no Member comments on this objective.

Objectives	Strategy Responses
3. Advance tools and regulations that support sustainable economic development, redevelopment, and reinvestment in Central Ohio neighborhoods.	Proposed revision b. Remove barriers in the permitting process for green buildings, <u>including LEED and WELL certified, and green practices such as installation of green roofs.</u> **Proposed new strategy** **Retrofit and preserve existing buildings, housing, and structures wherever possible**.

Member Plouck noted that zoning changes could encourage the use of green materials in residential housing. Members agreed that the support would come from municipal code changes. Chair Milam and Member Plouck will communicate with Brandi after the meeting.

Approach for Metrics, Data, and Setting Targets
Liz Whelan reported that the process of creating the metrics will be taking the qualitative statements and review the data that is available, valuable, and possible to measure. Staff will identify which data sources can be tracked over time and can also be compared to similar data from other regions.

Staff will work up proposed metrics to present to the Subcommittee at their February meeting.

2021 Work Plan and Next Steps
The intended timeline for completion and adoption of the RSA is:
In February:
- Review/finalize Equity Resource Document from Dr. Reece
- Finalize the stakeholder input process by early March by means of a survey to key stakeholder groups
- Hold an informational presentation for Stakeholders in late February/early March

The February 24 Subcommittee meeting will focus on data, metrics, and methodology

In March:
- Complete the stakeholder input process.

The March 30 Subcommittee meeting will focus on finalizing the RSA.

In April:
- Complete the final revision of the RSA

On April 17 the Subcommittee will present the RSA to the Sustainability Advisory Committee for adoption.

Adjourned at 2:26 pm.