Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

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June 16, 2021, 2:30 pm

Members Present
Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute
Andrew Biesterveld, COTA
Vice-Chair Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County
    Economic Development & Planning

Megha Sinha, NBBJ
Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification
    Coalition
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville
Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.

Public Present
Mac McCloy, City of Hilliard

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr	Ethan Hug	Anna Oestreich	Brandi Whetstone
Amanda Frey	Lynn Kaufman	Bevan Schneck	Brooke White
Joe Garrity	William Murdock	Edwina Teye	
Ted Geer	Jennifer Noll	Liz Whelan-Jackson	

Called to Order at 2:32 pm.

Welcome
Vice-Chair Mayor Ben Kessler opened the meeting, and recognized the WTS Columbus 2020 Award Winners: Dina Lopez, MORPC; Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) Member Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin, and Joanna Pinkerton, COTA.

Policy Update – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*
Click here for the presentation.

Regional Sustainability Agenda Target Setting –
Brandi Whetstone, Liz Whelan-Jackson, and Ethan Hug, MORPC
The Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) was approved by the SAC on April 21 and was adopted by Commission May 13.

Liz Whelan-Jackson presented the RSA Measures and Objectives:
1.1   Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled
        Annual average vehicle miles traveled per capita will be measured to track progress toward this objective. The data source will be the Ohio Department of Transportation.
1.4   Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors
        This data reflects the objective around reducing per capita energy consumption across the transportation, commercial and industrial and residential sectors, and is also tied to the goal of improving air quality. This data will come from various sources.

3.1   Improve transportation safety for all residents
       The data source will be the Ohio Department of Transportation.
3.2   Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all
       users
       This data reflects commuter travel behavior -- those who drive alone, bike, walk, or use
       public transit. The data source will be the U.S. Census Bureau American Community
       Survey.
4.2   Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure
       There has been a surge in concentrated mixed use and multifamily development that has led
       to a cumulative percentage of residential building activity increase since 2014. The data
       source will be MORPC Building Permits.
4.4   Increase employment in green jobs
       The data source will be Clean Jobs Midwest.

Vice-Chair Kessler moved to approve the proposed targets outlined for the Regional Sustainability
Agenda, motion seconded by Member Bartter, motion carried.

Sustainable2050 Certification – *Jennifer Noll and Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
Jennifer Noll gave a brief history of Sustainable2050.

The City of Hilliard has completed the tasks necessary to achieve the Sustainable2050 Platinum
Certification: adopted an Infrastructure Preservation Strategy, a Green Purchasing Policy, and was
the first Central Ohio community to adopt a Complete Streets Policy.

Member Stevens-Rich moved to approve the Platinum-Tier Status Certification for the City of
Hilliard, Member Sinha seconded the motion, Member Schamp abstained, motion carried.

Summit on Sustainability Update – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
MORPC's annual Summit on Sustainability will be held in Fall 2021. SWACO will be the main event
sponsor, and the Ohio EPA has offered a grant to support the event. The Regional Sustainability
Award nominations will be announced at the end of June, with SAC, as is usual, will vote on the
winners. More information will come via email.

Working Group/Board Updates
Sustaining Scioto Board – *Brooke White*
The Board met in April with a featured presentation from Paul Gledhill of the Ohio EPA. The Board
held a forum on May 11 to consider multiple solutions to updating precipitation data in the region.
This forum included presentations from the City of Columbus, the State Climate Office of Ohio, the
US EPA, and the NOAA Northeast Regional Climate Center.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team
The Team met on May 20, with Dr. Aaron Wilson presenting on climate adaptation and mitigation
strategies within the context of agricultural farms and forests. The Team reviewed the social
science survey draft intended for County Soil and Water District Supervisors of HUC 8 counties
within a significant portion in the Scioto Watershed. The Team will meet again on July 15.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on May 25 and will meet again on July 27. The
application for MORPC to become a SolSmart Silver Regional Organization was approved and the
region has successfully received its SolSmart designation. The Working Group and Staff continue to
review sites for Air Quality Monitors.

<u>Central Ohio Greenways Board</u> – *Letty Schamp*
The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on May 12 and discussed new funding through the RAISE grant that could potentially be used for trails. MORPC and trail partners are discussing project ideas that could be supported by the grant. The Board also heard updates from the four Working Groups regarding trail counters, trail passport tickets, trail snow removal, and the Impact of Trails Study, which should be completed by the end of June.

<u>Sustainable2050</u> – *Ben Kessler*
At the Q2 membership meeting on June 11, Sustainable2050 Members heard updates from MORPC Staff on the newly adopted Regional Sustainability Agenda along with some programming highlights. MORPC staff and Franklin County Public Health presented on regional air quality efforts. MORPC also announced its recent SolSmart designation.

Adjourned at 3:48 pm.