



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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morpc.org

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**COMMISSION MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
TOWN HALL**

Thursday, August 12, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Remote Option

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: 664 167 420#

AGENDA

- 1:30 p.m.
- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - 2. Welcome and Introductions** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair
 - **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
 - 3. Ohio Chamber of Commerce** – Steve Stivers, Ohio Chamber of Commerce President & CEO
 - 4. COVID-19 Update** – Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH, City of Columbus Health Commissioner
 - 5. Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
 - a. **Quarterly Membership Update** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Secretary

2:00 p.m.

Committees

6. **Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization** – Mark Forrest (Madison County), Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Chair
7. **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 & Community Engagement
8. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Jim Schimmer (Franklin County), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
 - a. **Sustainable2050 Recognition to the City of Hilliard** – Jim Schimmer (Franklin County), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair and Brandi Whetstone, MORPC Sustainability Officer

2:30 p.m.

9. **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 **June 10, 2021 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**
 - d. **Community Advisory Committee Update** – LaGrieta Holloway (Franklin County), Community Advisory Committee Chair
 - e. **Public Participation Plan** – Níel Jurist, MORPC Communications & Engagement Director
 - f. **2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment** – Thea Ewing, MORPC Transportation & Infrastructure Development Director
 - g. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Karen Angelou (City of Gahanna), MORPC Chair
10. **Commission Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of **June 10, 2021 Commission Meeting Minutes**

b. 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 RSVP to Shari Saunders at 614-233-4169 or ssaunders@morpc.org to let us know if you are attending in-person or remotely.

The next Commission Meeting is
Thursday, September 9, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PARKING AND TRANSIT: When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow "M". Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. On Commission meeting days only, additional parking is available in numbered spaces toward the west end of the parking lot. Electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC is S. Front Street & W. Blenkner St. Buses that accommodate this stop are the Number 61 - Grove City, the Number 5 - West 5th Ave. /Refugee, and the Number 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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MORPC Monthly Agency Report

June/July 2021

Department Directors

Kerstin Carr kcarr@morpc.org
Thea Ewing twalsh@morpc.org
Joe Garrity jgarrity@morpc.org
Shawn Hufstedler shufstedler@morpc.org

Niel Jurist njurist@morpc.org
Aaron Schill aschill@morpc.org
Robert Williams rwilliams@morpc.org

Trail Towns Program

Team Members secured grants in the amount of \$20,000 from The Columbus Foundation, \$5,000 from Ohio to Erie Trail Group, and \$5,000 from Rails to Trails Conservancy to develop a Central Ohio Trail Town Guidebook. Villages and organizations along the Ohio to Erie Trail are also committing funding to the project. Team Members met with stakeholders along the Ohio to Erie Trail to discuss the scope of work and expect to release an RFP this fall to select a consultant to develop the project.

Virtual Riverfest

Virtual Riverfest was the week of June 21 with the theme of "Wellness & Water." Educational messages were posted each day on social media and several MORPC partners were featured. Video content was used to promote Riverfest, with one video featuring an interview with the director of the African American Male Wellness Agency to highlight the importance of regional water resources and their role providing opportunities for recreation and supporting wellness.

State Legislative Updates

Governor Mike DeWine signed the two-year budget into law in June. The budget bill consists of \$74 billion of allocated funds that provide the necessary financial resources for the state government to function. MORPC played an active role throughout the budget process utilizing the 2020-2021 Public Policy Agenda to advocate for regional priorities and navigate various budget issues. MORPC provided testimony to both the House and Senate Finance committees and submitted a letter to members of the conference committee who worked to resolve the chambers' differences on the bill. To read more about MORPC's activity throughout the budget process, please visit: <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/government-affairs/>

Strategic Partnerships

MORPC facilitates the Columbus Region Coalition (CRC). The coalition represents local governments, the business community, and educational and community stakeholders across fifteen counties in Central Ohio. The CRC submitted five critical projects in our region, and all were funded:

- Comprehensive Addiction Center (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County)
- Hudson Greenway Trail (City of Columbus)
- Race, Inclusion, and Social Equity (RAISE) Institute (The Ohio State University)
- Terminal Enabling Project (Columbus Regional Airport Authority)
- Entrepreneur Center (Columbus Urban League)

This spring, MORPC partnered with Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs to create Governing Essentials for Local Elected Officials. This introductory series promotes a high-level understanding of topics essential to effective service as a local council, board, or commission member for newly elected officials or those seeking to improve their skills. The course has concluded with 14 public servants across our region participating. MORPC held an open house for the Master of Sustainability, Security, and Resilience degree and certificates programs.

Central Ohio Defense Group

States and communities can influence Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions by ensuring the military value of the bases and training ranges in their communities are protected and enhanced. They do

this through land-use policy decisions and investments, development of support, and transportation infrastructure. Through MORPC's advocacy with the Central Ohio Defense group, our region supports military assets throughout the region and hopes to find ways to reduce the costs of doing business for the military at their bases. MORPC is exploring how communities can best help reduce the military's cost of doing business is the focus of the Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) RFP that MORPC will be putting out this fall.

MORPC joined the Association of Defense communities to strengthen our advocacy around our regional military installments in early winter. Since joining, Joe Garrity has been appointed to the Federal Outreach Advisory Committee. Additionally, the Central Ohio Defense Group visited the 121st at Rickenbacker.

Diversity & Inclusion

MORPC partnered with Franklin County Department of Human Resources for a Juneteenth Lunch & Learn. MORPC Team Members heard from two dynamic guest speakers and learned the significance of the holiday. We also created a list of community recognitions and celebrations to inform our staff, which we featured in the employee newsletter.

MORPC sponsored the "A Tribute to African Americans" organization at the annual Central Ohio Honors. This year MORPC's Director of Communications & Engagement Niel Jurist received the Leadership in Business Award.

MORPC offered our last two DE&I workshops to our LinkUS partners. One workshop was facilitated by YWCA Columbus and the second by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. Overall, attendees enjoyed both trainings and mentioned that they are needed, especially in our current climate.

RAISE Grant

Team Members collaborated with the Franklin County Engineer's Office, City of Columbus, City of Gahanna, and City of Whitehall to develop and submit a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The grant requests \$22 million for six projects totaling 14 miles of trails and active transportation infrastructure. Awarded applicants will be notified in November 2021.

Community Relations

Membership Services events included:

- Harvesting a Modern Rural Government: The Public Sector of the Future
- Grant Camp Week
- Rural Two Forum: Cultivating Your Next Leaders

Two more summer interns will start at Grandview Heights in August. Team Members hosted touch-base meetings with the summer interns to review upcoming programs, social media expectations, and preliminary closure activities.

Team Members arranged a visit with the Easton Future Vision Fellows, Yaromir Steiner, Easton founder, and Keith Myers, Associate VP of Planning, Architecture and Real Estate at OSU. The Easton Future Vision Fellows also met with Jennifer Peterson and Beau Arnason for advice and guidance from the Steiner + Associates team. The Fellows toured the Neighborhood Design Center, met with MORPC Executive Director William Murdock, and attended the unveiling of the RAPID 5 Plans at the July 21 CMC event. Preparations were made for Easton Fellow Award judging.

Team Members met with Kim Burton to discuss OSU's new intern recruitment process, social media potential, Easton Fellow award process, and summer results.

Member visits and support continues.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Team Members are working with the LinkUS team on a proposed amendment to the 2020-2050 MTP to reflect recent work completed by the LinkUS team to on the East-West transit corridors and the Northwest transit corridor based on recent corridor studies. The proposed amendment will be published for public review and comment August 1 – August 31.

Team Members completed the draft version of the MORPC Public Participation Plan (for the metropolitan planning organization area) – formerly the Public Involvement Plan – which has a public comment period July 9 through August 25.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS)

The Regional Housing Speaker Series continued in July with a session titled “A ZIP Code Shouldn’t Determine Outcomes, But it Does.” Over 100 people registered for this session, which is now available on MORPC’s YouTube channel. The next panel discussion is August 20, on the topic of 15-Minute Cities.

Regional Policy Roundtable

Team Members are promoting the Public Policy Agenda and advocating on behalf of MORPC’s local government members and have met with: Representative Jordan, Representative Lanese, Representative Miller and Senator Schaffer.

Mobility Management

The Gohio Mobility specialized transportation search tool has gone through a round of user testing. MORPC Team Members are coordinating provider data improvements with ODOT and other improvements identified during user testing, as well as outlining the process for getting Ohio mobility managers on the platform and trained. A second round of user testing will be initiated after improvements needed from user testing feedback are completed.

Regional Mobility Plan

Survey outreach continues for the Regional Mobility Plan, the coordinated plan for ODOT’s Human Services Transportation Coordination Region 6. Radio advertisements and mail marketing were completed in July. Survey responses are being mapped by home ZIP code to evaluate the balance of rural to urban input to determine if more outreach is necessary. Local-level strategies for the Regional Mobility Plan are being drafted and will be evaluated alongside survey responses before stakeholder review.

Engagement with county commissioners in the Regional Mobility Plan area of interest is being initiated so they are included in the process before approval of the plan is requested.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

Team Members are preparing to release the call for projects for 5310 funding utilizing 2021 and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act /American Rescue Plan Act allocations. The call for projects will be released in August/September and will be funded at 100% for this year only. A required workshop will be held virtually this year for any interested parties.

Gohio

Staff launched a new program called the Commute Action Fund. This fund is a tool for Central Ohio companies to fund new incentives and/or commute projects that motivate company associates to drive less and use sustainable modes of transportation to work. The fund aims to empower Central Ohio companies to take ownership of creating more sustainable commuter options for their workplace.

A new social media and radio campaign was launched focusing on the return to the workplace commute. This campaign raises awareness about commute options compared to driving alone.

Mobility maps are being developed for two neighborhoods in Columbus – Linden and Franklinton. The mobility maps are a partnership effort with MORPC/Gohio staff and Columbus Public Health to identify safe multimodal routes to community resources. Gohio staff is working with the City of Dublin to draft a process for creating mobility maps that can be replicated regionally.

US23 Connect Study

The first round of stakeholder and public engagement sessions was completed in mid-July. Led by ODOT and its consultant team, a total of nine stakeholder and six virtual public meetings were held between July 7 and July 14. While there will be many opportunities to provide feedback throughout this study, comments following these meetings should be received by August 16, 2021 at transportation.ohio.gov/23connect.

The second round of stakeholder and public engagement meetings are scheduled in November. These will include virtual meetings and in person meetings. At these meetings the study team will provide information on the conceptual improvement alternatives and information on the impacts of the concepts.

LinkUS

Team Members continue to participate in the LinkUS initiative and provide support for COTA to identify the Locally Preferred Alternatives (LPAs) for the east-west corridors and the next steps to secure funding for the corridors.

Phase 2 of the Northwest Corridor Study begins in August. The Northwest Corridor study activities continue to be led by the City of Columbus.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

CORPO staff provided assistance on the following projects:

- Union County Health Department's MOVES Coalition work toward advancing transit in Union County.
- Madison County Thoroughfare Plan.
- With MORPC's Data & Mapping Team, Bowling Green University's development of a survey that will gauge Central Ohio resident's interest in relocating to a rural or exurban area.

Team Members are developing a more robust process of gathering and analyzing building permits within rural member counties, to better develop land-use assumptions/modeling assumptions.

ODOT announced the Regional Transportation Planning Grant Program, which will provide CORPO members access (through a competitive application process) to just under \$1 million of dedicated funds in this two-year cycle. CORPO Team Members are developing a process that CORPO members may apply for use of these funds for transportation projects. The proposed process will be introduced at the upcoming CORPO county subcommittee meetings in September 2021.

MORPC Attributable Funding

Partnering agreements will be sent to all sponsors of projects that currently have a MORPC-attributable funding commitment. The biennial review of the *MORPC Attributable Funding Policies* begins in the fall.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

The Ohio Public Works Commission allocated more than \$27 million for state fiscal year 2023 in loans and grants for local infrastructure projects in District 3/Franklin County through the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP). Application materials were posted on MORPC's website on July 1. Eligible projects include improvements to roads, bridges, culverts, water supply systems, wastewater systems, storm water collection systems and solid waste disposal facilities. The Public Works Integrating Committee for District 3 will recommend funding awards for projects that are scheduled to begin construction between July 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023. Completed applications are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, for all applicants in District 3.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

TRAC had a working session June 23 and a meeting July 21. The ODOT staff recommendations presented at the working session and the meeting included funding for seven of the nine projects (the top seven in our priority ranking) in the MPO and one project in CORPO areas in Madison County. The draft list will be presented for a vote August 25, followed by a public comment period through September 15. The final vote is September 22.

Federal Competitive Grants

The City of Columbus was awarded a \$25 million INFRA grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. This phase involves the reconstruction of interchanges and roadways on the innerbelt I-70 and I-71 freeways. The grant will fund supporting infrastructure to reconnect communities split by the original freeway construction.

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

The next RDAC meeting is September 7. They will discuss the creation, staffing, and membership of new working groups, among other items.

- The Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit Working Group met July 20 to discuss the final details for their survey and to discuss the future of the group. The survey should be distributed to respondents in late July. Results will be presented at the September 7 RDAC meeting.
- The next Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG) meeting is September 2.

- The next Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG) meeting is August 4. RIDG's steering committee met July 21 to discuss the structure and topics for the August 4 meeting. The steering committee meets again October 13.

Data & Mapping Outreach & Collaboration

Team Members are helping Logan County Economic Development staff consume and use data to support their housing development goals.

Team Members continue working with partners, other agencies, and ESRI to gather data for use with the new ESRI ArcGIS Urban program being rolled out.

Staff is preparing Franklin County's existing land use and zoning for the ESRI urban program.

Team Members are preparing the application for MORPC's membership in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP). The NNIP is a network of 30+ independent partner organizations whose mission is to ensure all communities have access to data and the skills to use information to advance equity and wellbeing across neighborhoods. MORPC and OSU's Center for Urban & Regional Analysis will partner in this membership.

Team Members are assisting the Knox County Board of Elections with a spatial location project.

Team Members updated Mount Sterling's zoning map.

Team Members continue to update the COVID-19 Resource Hub (<https://central-ohio-covid19-morpc.hub.arcgis.com/>) and the Mid-Ohio Open Data/M.O.O.D. (<https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/mid-ohio-open-data/>) with information pertinent to members.

Team Members are serving on:

- The Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition Steering Committee
- The Central Data & Technology Council.

COVID-19 Research Briefs

Team Members presented the policy briefs to the Columbus Metropolitan Library staff and executives on July 8 and to the Gahanna Rotary Club on July 21.

Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Team Members continue to build out the final deliverables for the ATP which includes an interactive map with built-in design guidance, an accompanying action plan, and a story map outlining the development process. An update was provided to the Active Transportation Committee at the July meeting. The draft deliverables will be presented to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in September and a public comment period will be opened for review of the materials. The final ATP will be presented to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in October for adoption.

Complete Streets

The Complete Streets Policy Update Steering Committee met June 24 to discuss the revised policy requirements and recommendations. A final draft of the policy update will be shared at the final project Steering Committee meeting on August 12. MORPC staff will present the revised policy to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in September and host a public comment period for further review. The final policy will be presented to CAC, TAC, and TPC/Commission in October for adoption.

Active Transportation Committee (ATC)

The ATC met July 13. Updates were provided to the committee on the status of the ATP and Complete Streets Policy. Committee members were given the opportunity to review the materials and provide feedback. ODOT provided an overview of the recently adopted statewide active transportation plan, Walk.Bike.Ohio. ODOT's Walk.Bike.Ohio Plan and related technical memos can be found at www.transportation.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/programs/walkbikeohio/welcome#page=1.

Data Collection Program

Team Members coordinated with FHWA and the Volpe Center throughout the month of June to develop a non-motorized volume data collection peer exchange held over the course of two afternoons on July 14-15. Experts from around the country joined MORPC staff to discuss successes and challenges with non-

motorized volume data collection. A report will be developed later this summer by the Volpe Center that will document the peer exchange and key takeaways from the event. That report and presentation materials from the event can be shared upon request, once it becomes available. MORPC staff will take the lessons learned from this event and continue collaborating with regional partners to advance the region's non-motorized data collection and management efforts. Any agencies interested in learning more about these efforts can contact Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org for more information.

Active Transportation Outreach

MORPC continues to host virtual watch parties for the monthly Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) webinars. The next webinar is August 18. Contact Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org for more information.

insight2050 Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Team Members developed a GIS model that analyzes the entire City of Columbus based on key characteristics to identify priority locations for safety improvements and/or speed management strategies. This model can potentially be modified and used throughout the region.

Team Members developed a spreadsheet tool to help guide Franklin County Engineer's Office staff in the development of roadway projects to meet Complete Streets criteria. This tool can potentially be modified and used in association with the regional ATP update to guide roadway designers through the process of determining the most appropriate accommodations for people walking and bicycling.

MORPC Staff is working with City of Hilliard staff to finalize the Cemetery Road project deliverables, including the Best Practices Report and Conceptual Development Framework.

Team Members are working with Jefferson Township staff to finalize the Blacklick Station project deliverables including the Best Practices Report and Conceptual Development Framework.

Team Members are working with City of Westerville staff to schedule public engagement events to review the final document with community stakeholders for the Cleveland Avenue Prioritization Project.

Transportation Safety

The Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee met June 7 and shared that, as of May 2021, the State of Ohio has seen 489 traffic fatalities. This is the highest year-to-date number on record. January, April, and May all saw record highs in traffic fatalities.

ODOT's Pedestrian Safety Improvement Program is moving into the construction phase with seven of the eight cities that are involved. Columbus is included in this program. ODOT is revamping the safety program and will be launching a new Systemic Safety Improvement Program in January 2022. Roadway departure and pedestrian-involved crashes will be two key focus areas for that effort.

The Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review met July 8. Four of the seven fatal crashes reviewed involved people walking and bicycling; six of the seven fatal crashes reviewed involved people impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

Team Members are working toward the second annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum that will be held September 21.

Sustainable2050

Members met in June and were provided updates from MORPC staff on the Regional Sustainability Agenda and MORPC's recent SolSmart designation. Air quality was the topic for the member presentation and roundtable discussion, reminding members that summertime is peak Air Quality Alert season.

Central Ohio Greenways Board (COG)

The COG board met July 21. The agenda included legislative updates, information on the RAISE grant application, updates on RAPID 5 (www.rapid5.org), and presentations from the Easton Fellows on their respective projects.

- Marketing & Communications Working Group: The chair updated the board on the Trail Count Program and presented the Final Urban Greenway Design Guide.
- Operations & Access Working Group: The chair presented the proposed Easton Trail head and updated the board on the Outreach Guidelines.

- Partnership Working Group: The chair updated the board on the status of the Economic Impacts of Trails study, currently in its draft form.
- Trail Development Working Group: The chair presented updates on the Trail Town Projects and Bandwango, the passport program that COG is partnering on with Experience Columbus.

Sustaining Scioto Board

At the June 23 Sustaining Scioto Board meeting, MORPC Team Members presented the regional trail vision. A working team was formed to provide recommendations for environmentally sensitive trail design guidelines. This effort will engage partners who have shared concerns about the impact of trail building in sensitive areas along local waterways. The next meeting is August 25.

- The Agriculture and Rural Communities Outreach Team met July 15. Jedediah Stinner from the USDA - ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit presented the Edge-of-Field Network Project focused on conservation measures to reduce anthracene loss from agricultural fields across the state. The team continues work on the Key Informant Social Science Survey, which has been rolled out to district administrators of soil and water conservation districts with major portions in the Scioto watershed. The pre-survey questions will be shared with the district county supervisors through the month of July, with follow-up interviews tentatively planned for August. The team also has an opportunity to collaborate with Prof. Matthew Hamilton of OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources, with his capstone Class supporting the survey analysis.

Water Quality Management Plans

Team Members are moving forward with Logan County planning efforts and hosted the initial stakeholder meeting in June to introduce the project and request data. Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission offered helpful guidance on additional outreach opportunities through upcoming meetings in the county. Presentations were scheduled as a result.

Energy & Air Quality

There have been no Air Quality Alerts issued this year, but staff participated in media interviews about the impact of wildfires on elevated particulate matter levels in Central Ohio.

Additional PurpleAir monitors were purchased along with wi-fi hotspots. Team Members are working to site and install the monitors in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. Staff is collocating a monitor with an Ohio EPA federal monitor and moving forward with installing monitors at various locations in targeted ZIP codes. There is still a need for a few site hosts in targeted locations and that outreach is ongoing.

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met July 27 with updates from Ohio EPA, a guest speaker, and MORPC staff updates including air quality monitoring and the Summit on Sustainability.

Local Government Energy Partnership (LGEP)

MORPC supported a successful application submitted by UNPREDICTABLEcity for a SolSmart Technical Advisor RFP. Central Ohio communities can access free technical assistance toward earning SolSmart designation, a national program that recognizes communities for encouraging solar growth. MORPC was recently designated a regional SolSmart community, receiving the Silver designation. Increasing the number of designated communities can help the region advance to Gold.

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The SAC met June 16, when the MORPC Team presented proposed targets for the Regional Sustainability Agenda's measurable objectives, with the remaining targets to be presented at the next meeting. Hilliard's Platinum Sustainable2050 Certification was also presented and approved. The Sustainability Advisory Committee meets again September 15.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA)

The summary document is available on the website at <https://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-REGIONAL-SUSTAINABILITY-AGENDA.pdf>. The equity checklist document design is nearly complete and the larger resource document will be designed next. A website about the RSA is under development to house all related documents. The next steps are to finalize the targets, update the Sustainable2050 certification process, and update the Regional Sustainability Dashboard in coordination with CURA at OSU.

MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews.

Membership Services

MORPC hosted a Social Media Forum on August 4. The theme was *Adjusting Our Focus in Changing Times*.

Upcoming Events

MORPC and Spectrum are partnering to hold a three-part web series focused on data privacy, rural broadband, and smart cities. More details to come.

Save the Date for MORPC's annual Summit on Sustainability on October 15, 2021, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. More details to come.

Franklin County Urgent Needs (FCUN) Program

The 2018 funding round is complete. Projects for the 2019 program are moving forward. Several are in production and many are in inspection and work write-up stages. MORPC worked with Franklin County on an adjustment in total units to be completed due to costs increases because of COVID related shortages and increased costs. Clients are approved for the 2019 round. All initial inspections should be complete by the week of August 1. Two units are completed and several are under construction. With additional personnel the team is focusing on maintaining production for the 2019 round.

The 2020 program is underway in the client application stage. Team Members will keep watch on the COVID related shortages and increased costs and how they may affect this funding round. Two projects are started and additional projects are being assigned for inspection.

COCIC

The COCIC program is leveraged with the Franklin County program. Projects are moving along with the FCUN projects.

WarmChoice

MORPC successfully reach the \$3,000 or below per job average requested by Columbia Gas of Ohio. Weatherization contractors are beginning to increase their production and complete older jobs. An additional weatherization contractor is expected to begin starting in September.

While new applications are still low (which is typical in the summer), they have increased slightly in the past two weeks. It is anticipated applications will continue to increase as we approach Fall. The July Facebook campaign produced a total of 26 applicants. So far, none of the applicants qualify for the program. Fahlgren Mortine is working on additional marketing for August. Team Members are dedicating time to qualify applicants.

The HWAP PY 2020 year is being closed out. Production has started for PY 2021 with more than ten jobs in progress.

Audit Update

The Executive Committee approved the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at the June 3 Executive Committee meeting. The report was submitted to and accepted by the Auditor of State without comment. MORPC received a clean report with no findings. MORPC submitted the 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the Government Finance Officers Association.

Facility and IT Updates

With the renovation substantially complete and CDC guidance loosening over the past two months, MORPC Team Members are back in the office with a hybrid approach. Additionally, the MORPC team prepared the office for guests, having our first on-site in person meetings since the beginning of the pandemic in July. The IT team continues to support the office renovation through audio/video technology design and implementation, managing and adjusting as some key pieces of equipment remain on back order.

Personnel Updates

The following new Team Members recently started at MORPC:

- Transportation & Infrastructure Development Transit Planner John Gardocki began June 14
- Transportation & Infrastructure Development Modeler Yan Liu began June 21
- Finance Director Anthony Perry began July 26

MORPC is currently recruiting for one (1) open position:

- Planning & Sustainability Energy and Sustainability Program Coordinator

The following are in the interviewing or offering stage, or onboarding soon:

- Communications & Engagement Marketing Intern
- Planning & Sustainability Planning Intern
- Planning & Sustainability Active Transportation & Safety Intern

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-rfqs/>.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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PLANNING COMMISSION

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2021
Time: 2:26 p.m.
Location: Video/Audio Conference

Transportation Policy Committee Members

Chris Amorose Groomes	Melanie Houston	Cornell Robertson
Mike Anderson	Pamela Hykes O'Grady	Isaac Robinson
Karen Angelou	Monica Irelan	Allen Rothermel
Herb Asher	Laurie Jadwin	Lauren Rummel
Beth Beatty	Steve Kennedy	Jim Schimmer
Ben Collins	Ben Kessler	Elissa Schneider
Michelle Crandall	Benjamin King	Steve Schoeny
Karl Craven	Bill LaFayette	Roby Schottke
Tracie Davies	Greg Lestini	Kim Sharp for Joanna
Kristen Easterday	Dana McDaniel	Pinkerton
Brad Ebersole	Rory McGuinness	Thom Slack
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Megan O'Callaghan	Joe Stefanov
Matt Greeson	Rob Peters	Christie Ward
Dave Gulden	Bryan Rhoads	Nancy White
Alex Heckman	Eric Richter	Carrie Woody
LaGrieta Holloway	Ryan Rivers	

Commission Members

Joe Antram	Tim Hansley	Jeremiah Upp
Franklin Christman	Eric Phillips	R.C. Wise
Terry Emery	David Scheffler	
Bill Habig	Chris Schmenk	

Associate Members

Nikki Scarpitti

MORPC Staff

Kerstin Carr	Ralonda Hampton	Anna Ostereich
Betsy Ehmcke	Shawn Hufstedler	Shari Saunders
Thea Ewing	Hosana Josephat	Aaron Schill
Mary Ann Frantz	Eileen Leuby	Bevan Schneck
Amanda Frey	Dina Lopez	Susan Tsen
Joe Garrity	Amanda McEldowney	Brandi Whetstone
Ted Geer	William Murdock	Robert Williams

Guests

Danielle Boyd, Stonewall Columbus	Grant Molnar, Summer Intern, Hocking/Logan Counties
Marilyn Brown	Mitchell Pinsky, Summer Intern, Bloom Twp
Jake Buchanan, Summer Intern, Chillicothe	Joseph Sierputowski, Summer Intern, Grandview Heights
Prince Kwarteng Crooklynn, Summer Intern, Gahanna	Caroline Stollar, Summer Intern, Reynoldsburg
Christian Harris, Summer Intern, Delaware	Marlee Stollar, Summer Intern, Morrow County
Beth Hugh, Berkshire Township	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Sarah Jonassen, Summer Intern, Mifflin Twp	Brent Welch, FCEO
Kamran Karshidi, Summer Intern, Reynoldsburg	Hannah Wynne, Summer Intern, Circleville
Zachary Maziar, Summer Intern, Perry County	
William "Mac" McCloy, Summer Intern, Hilliard	

Meeting Called to Order

Chair Karen Angelou called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:26 p.m.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Report

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

Thea Ewing announced that \$2.6 million was set aside by the Ohio Legislature in the transportation budget for rural transportation planning.

Ms. Ewing noted Resolution T-6-21 on the consent agenda is a large TIP amendment that includes a number of member directed spending (earmark) projects to make sure they are eligible.

Ms. Ewing gave an [Overview](#) of the US 23 Study. MORPC is working with TMACOG and ODOT District 6 for a better free flow access between Columbus and Toledo. The project was included in the TRAC proposal for \$1.5 million in preliminary engineering. The project will eventually be over \$12 million. ODOT is in the public engagement process with an online public input tool and conducting public meetings.

MORPC is federally required to have a Public Participation Plan. MORPC is looking at greater considerations around equity and technology and a way to provide general updates. We are not looking at a major overhaul. Contact Bevan Schneck with recommendations. The draft will be out for public comment in July. The plan will be brought forward for adoption in September.

Applications for the RAISE grant are due mid-July. MORPC intends to seek a planning grant for urban-rural connections. We are not only looking at transit, but trail and broadband as part of the approach. MORPC Team Members are available for help with applications.

Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda

Cornell Robertson made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Rory McGuiness; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

2020-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Proposed Amendment to Modify Three Projects and Add One Project

This amendment is to modify the mode, alignment, and cost estimates for three transit projects and to add one Bus Rapid Transit project to the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The amendment will also adjust the estimated construction timeframe of one of the transit projects.

Background

The region's planning partners have been studying High-Capacity Transit corridors for many years, including, most recently, COTA's NextGen plan and the MORPC Insight 2050 Corridor Concepts study. The 2020-2050 MTP includes five high-capacity transit corridors in the financially constrained plan, however specific modes were not identified when it was adopted in May 2020.

Building upon these regional transit planning efforts, the LinkUS Mobility Initiative was launched in 2020, with the purpose of providing a complete mobility system along key regional corridors, including high capacity and advanced rapid transit, among a broader program of mobility options and infrastructure. The first two corridors to be studied as part of the LinkUS Mobility Initiative were the Northwest Corridor, connecting downtown Columbus to Bethel Rd. (with future studies of a connection to Dublin) along Olentangy River Rd., and the East-West Corridor, which spans Franklin County along West Broad St. and East Broad and East Main Streets. The LinkUS Partners, led by COTA and the City of Columbus, have begun the corridor-specific studies and engagement activities to identify the locally preferred alignments and transit modes for each of these corridors.

Equitable public and stakeholder engagement has been and continues to be an essential part of the LinkUS Mobility Initiative corridor studies. Thus far it has included a range of tools and techniques—including in-person, virtual, and other alternative formats. The information gathered is a key input in the corridor studies.

Project Changes

Of the five high-capacity transit projects already included in the MTP, three projects can now have more detail and refined estimates included because of the LinkUS Mobility Initiative corridor studies. These projects are:

- MTP ID 619: East Main St. Corridor; East Rich St./Main St., from High St./Spring St. to Taylor Rd.; Bus Rapid Transit
- MTP ID 643: Northwest Corridor; Downtown to Dublin; Bus Rapid Transit
- MTP ID 988: West Broad St. Corridor; Broad St. from Westwoods Blvd. to Washington Ave.; Bus Rapid Transit

The following project that was not previously included in the MTP is proposed to be added as part of this amendment:

- MTP ID 987: East Broad St. Corridor; East Broad St. from Taylor Rd. to Souder Ave.; Bus Rapid Transit

Figures 1 and 2, below and on the following pages, represent the projects as they will be included in the amended MTP.

Figure 1: Project Descriptions, Estimated Construction Time Frame, and Cost Estimate

MTP ID	Project Description	Year	Cost Estimate (YOE \$)
619	East Main St. Corridor: East Rich St./Main St., High St. from Spring St. to Taylor Rd, <i>Bus Rapid Transit</i>	2030	<i>\$214 - \$313 Million</i>
643	Northwest Corridor: Olentangy River Rd., from Downtown Columbus to Dublin., <i>Bus Rapid Transit</i>	2030	<i>\$390.3 - \$461.5 Million</i>
<i>987</i>	<i>East Broad St. Corridor: from Taylor Rd to Souder Ave., Bus Rapid Transit</i>	<i>2040</i>	<i>\$178 - \$362 Million</i>
988	West Broad St. Corridor: from Westwoods Blvd. to Washington Ave., <i>Bus Rapid Transit</i>	<i>2030</i>	<i>\$157 - \$285 Million</i>

Bold italics = new or changed project components

Fiscal Balance

The 2020-2050 MTP includes a forecast of \$4.05 billion in federal and local revenue intended for construction and operation of five high-capacity transit corridors. The assumed cost of these five high-capacity transit corridors is \$3.9 billion. The cost estimates were based on various planning documents and unit costs. For the projects proposed to be amended, more refined capital cost estimates were developed for the corridors studied in the recent LinkUS Mobility Initiative studies. These more refined costs are lower than the initial cost estimates included in the MTP. Furthermore, this proposed amendment includes moving the estimated construction timeframe for MTP ID 988 up from 2040 to 2030, further lowering the capital cost estimate due to less inflation. The differences in the cost estimates are great enough to accommodate the addition of MTP ID 987 to the financially constrained MTP.

Air Quality Conformity

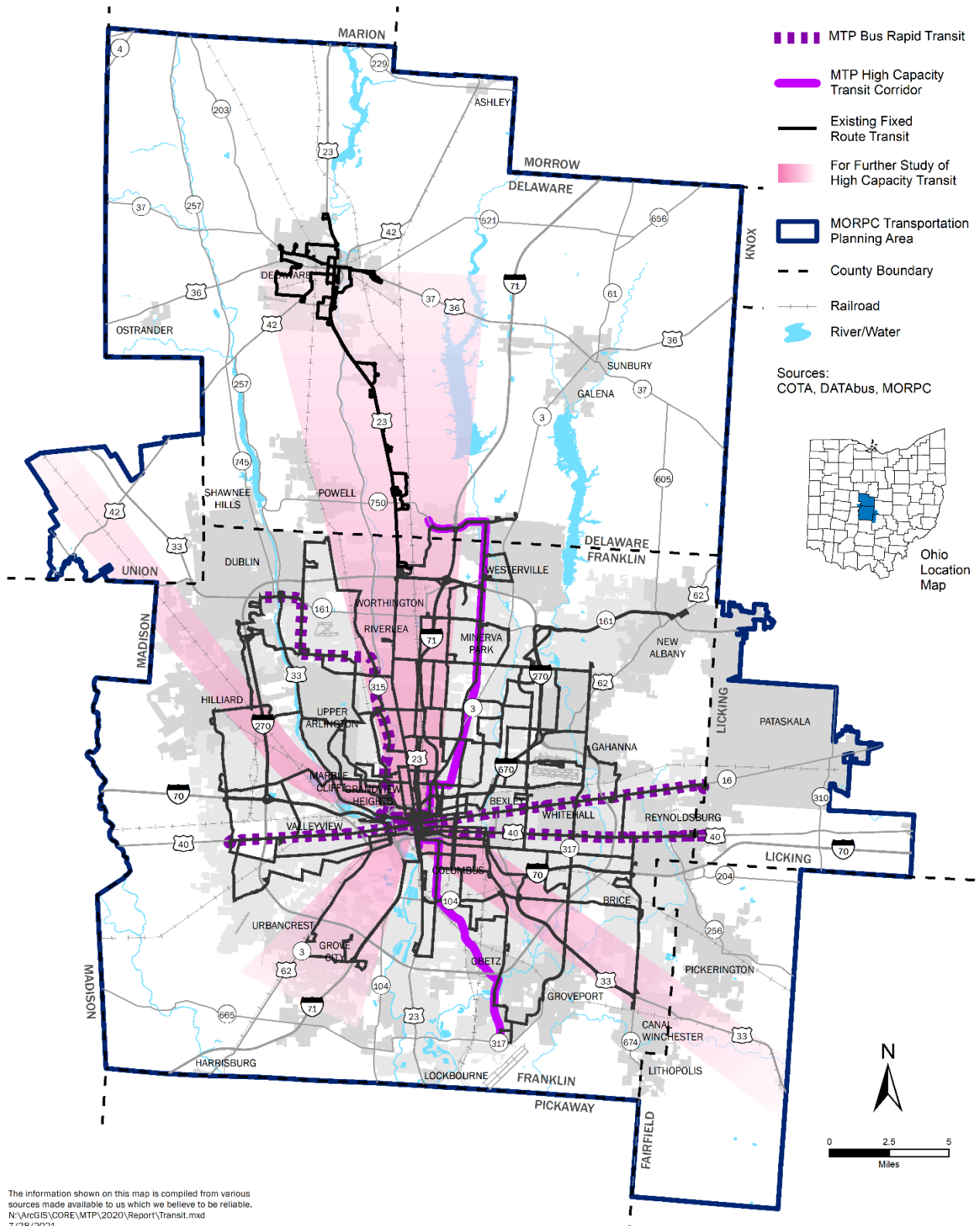
Due to the significance of the proposed changes to the MTP, it is federally required to do an analysis to confirm the projects included in the amended MTP do not lead to violations in the air quality standard or delay obtaining the standard. This is called a conformity determination. The incorporation of the proposed amendments into the conformity analysis is underway, and a conformity determination is expected. Appendix B of the 2020-2050 MTP will be updated accordingly upon adoption of the amendment resolution.

Public Involvement

This amendment packet and the revised conformity determination appendix is being made available for a 30-day comment period through August 31, 2021. The proposed amendment can be viewed at morpc.org/mtp2050. Comments can be submitted by email to mtp@morpc.org or in writing to MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Attn: Maria Schaper, by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021.

The amendment and the revised MTP, including the revised project listing, maps, fiscal balance information, air quality conformity documentation and other amendment-related changes, will be placed on the website once the resolution to amend the MTP has been approved.

Figure 2: High-Capacity Transit Projects





MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Video/Audio Conference

Commission Members

Chris Amorose Groomes
Mike Anderson
Karen Angelou
Joe Antram
Herb Asher
Beth Beatty
Franklin Christman
Ben Collins
Michelle Crandall
Karl Craven
Tracie Davies
Brad Ebersole
Terry Emery
Cindi Fitzpatrick
Matt Greeson
Dave Gulden
Bill Habig

Tim Hansley
Alex Heckman
Melanie Houston
Pamela Hykes O'Grady
Monica Irelan
Laurie Jadwin
Steve Kennedy
Ben Kessler
Benjamin King
Bill LaFayette
Greg Lestini
Dana McDaniel
Rory McGuinness
Megan O'Callaghan
Rob Peters
Eric Phillips
Bryan Rhoads

Eric Richter
Ryan Rivers
Cornell Robertson
Allen Rothermel
Lauren Rummel
David Scheffler
Jim Schimmer
Chris Schmenk
Elissa Schneider
Steve Schoeny
Roby Schottke
Joe Stefanov
Jeremiah Upp
Christie Ward
Nancy White
R.C. Wise

Transportation Policy Committee Members

Kristen Easterday
LaGrieta Holloway
Isaac Robinson

Kim Sharp for Joanna
Pinkerton
Thom Slack

Carrie Woody

Associate Members

Nikki Scarpitti

MORPC Staff

Kerstin Carr
Betsy Ehmcke
Thea Ewing
Mary Ann Frantz
Amanda Frey
Joe Garrity
Ted Geer

Ralonda Hampton
Shawn Hufstедler
Hosana Josephat
Eileen Leuby
Dina Lopez
Amanda McEldowney
William Murdock

Anna Ostereich
Shari Saunders
Aaron Schill
Bevan Schneck
Susan Tsen
Brandi Whetstone
Robert Williams

Guests Present

Danielle Boyd, Stonewall Columbus
Marilyn Brown
Jake Buchanan, Summer Intern, Chillicothe
Prince Kwarteng Crooklynn, Summer Intern,
Gahanna
Christian Harris, Summer Intern, Delaware
Beth Hugh, Berkshire Township
Sarah Jonassen, Summer Intern, Mifflin Twp
Kamran Karshidi, Summer Intern, Reynoldsburg
Zachary Maziar, Summer Intern, Perry County
William "Mac" McCloy, Summer Intern, Hilliard

Grant Molnar, Summer Intern, Hocking/Logan
Counties
Mitchell Pinsky, Summer Intern, Bloom Twp
Joseph Sierputowski, Summer Intern,
Grandview Heights
Caroline Stollar, Summer Intern, Reynoldsburg
Marlee Stollar, Summer Intern, Morrow County
Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Brent Welch, FCEO
Hannah Wynne, Summer Intern, Circleville

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

Chair Karen Angelou called the Commission meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Angelou and MORPC Executive Director William Murdock recognized long-time MORC friend and member Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown who retired May 14, 2021. The Commission showed their appreciation with a round of applause for Commissioner Brown. Commissioner Brown thanked the Commission and remarked that MORPC is a model to show the community that people of good faith and good thinking want to make good things happen for the entire community. She encouraged members to remember the good work they accomplish in this forum. Commissioner Brown is forever thankful for her work at MORPC as a staff member and while serving on the board.

Recognition of Guests – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer

Eileen Leuby welcomed the following summer interns: Jake Buchanan, City of Chillicothe; Prince Kwarteng Crooklynn, City of Gahanna; Christian Harris, City of Delaware; Sarah Jonassen, Mifflin Township; Kamran Karshidi; City of Reynoldsburg; Zach Maziar, Perry County; Grant Molnar, Hocking/Logan Counties; Mitchell Pinsky, Bloom Township; Joe Sierputowski, City of Grandview Heights; Caroline Stollar, City of Reynoldsburg; Marlee Stollar, Morrow County; and Hannah Wynne, City of Circleville. Ms. Leuby also welcomed Beth Hugh from Berkshire Township.

One MORPC One Voice: Stonewall Columbus – Danielle Boyd, Stonewall Columbus Executive Coordinator

Stonewall Columbus Executive Coordinator Danielle Boyd gave an [Overview of Stonewall Columbus](#). Their updated mission and vision is to increase visibility, inclusion and connection to the LGBTQ+ community so we can see a community where all of us thrive. Their signature programs are hosted in-house and focus around:

- Identity-based
- Wellness
- Education and skills-based
- Pride

To learn more about Stonewall Columbus visit www.stonewallcolumbus.org. The pride specific website is www.columbuspride.org. The Lavender listings site (www.lavenderlistings.com/) is where people can find LGBTQ+ friendly affirming organizations and businesses throughout the region.

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

William Murdock announced this meeting is likely the last all-virtual Commission meeting. MORPC is looking at a hybrid option for the August Commission and Executive Committee meetings. Mr. Murdock reminded members the Commission does not meet in July.

MORPC has been working on strategic planning and reviewing feedback from the strategic planning sessions. The agency has just completed all the key pillars of the strategic framework adopted by the Commission and is now working on focus areas to bring it together. There will be more to share in August on this continuing work.

MORPC has also been focusing on outreach and programming to our rural areas in the region making incredible progress in the 14 counties surrounding Franklin County. Just a few of the things we're doing include:

- Coordinated event series
- Trail efforts
- Looking at mobility options and other types of grants to connect communities through new technology
- Leveraging work through the Competitive Advantage Program

For the first time this week, MORPC is honoring the Juneteenth holiday.

MORPC opened our offices to vaccinated employees on June 1 as the next phase of our return to work. The return to work will continue in phases over the summer. We will continue to use remote work during the transition. We are looking at a hybrid option for the August Commission meeting and similar things for the fall Summit on Sustainability and other committee meetings.

The office renovation is substantially complete. We have new workspaces and updated meeting spaces. The meeting space is doubled, and we are making technology available for use in the meeting spaces. We will be opening to the public soon and look forward to welcoming you back.

Mr. Murdock thanked MORPC's Audit and Finance Teams. The Executive Committee approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at their meeting last week. MORPC continues to be a good steward of your investment receiving a clean report with no findings on the annual financial audit.

Grant Camp continues with one more session tomorrow led by SWACO and Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District. All week the sessions focused on different funding opportunities for your communities.

MORPC and Ohio University have extended the \$1,000 scholarship program to include a new Masters of Sustainability, Security and Resilience which is now available for members and their employees. A certification component is also available.

The June 22 Regional Housing Peer Exchange features Central Ohio School Superintendents and how the housing issue relates to schools.

Upcoming Events:

- Data Privacy: What's Next for (Public and Private) Data Privacy Efforts in Ohio? – July 30
- Best Practices in Social Media – August 4
- Harvesting a Modern Rural Government – June 22
- Cultivating Your Next Leader – July 13
- How to Add Zoning Rules that Benefit Your Community – August 3

MORPC Friends, Family and Alumni Night at the Columbus Clippers is August 12. MORPC Secretary Chris Amorose Groomes is throwing out the first pitch.

Mr. Murdock congratulated Niel Jurist for graduating from Leadership Columbus today and being honored at the June 18 Central Ohio Honors 2021.

Mr. Murdock announced MORPC Finance Director Susan Tsen is retiring the end of July. She is the foundation for how MORPC excels in managing our finances and is an all-around great individual. Ms. Tsen thanked Mr. Murdock and the Commission. She has enjoyed her 24 years at MORPC. It is a great place to work. While she is excited to move on to her new adventure, it is bittersweet and wanted to thank everyone. Chair Angelou wished Ms. Tsen well.

Proposed Resolution 09-21: “Establishing maximum per-capita membership fees for 2022-2026” – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director and Shawn Hufstedler, MORPC Chief of Staff & Director of Operations

Mr. Murdock reported the next two resolutions deal with member dues. Member dues are your communities’ direct investment in MORPC. Though they are a small part of the budget, they provide flexibility in serving you. They helped us navigate COVID and also provide critical matching funds for federal, state and private funds across the agency. MORPC treats member dues as an investment and provides communities with annual return on investment statements.

By tradition the agency reviews its dues structure so communities have plenty of notice for next year’s budget. The Bylaws state the dues schedule is to be set by July 31. The Bylaws also state we need to set a 5-year maximum dues schedule every five years which this resolution does. The maximum dues are usually higher than anticipated future actual rates. That provides flexibility should the Commission want to undertake anything that might require additional funds. Resolution 07-21 sets next year’s rate. Every year we also provide a non-binding estimate of what the next five years look like and shows what we expect the actual increase to be each year.

Greg Lestini made a motion to approve Resolution 09-21, second by Pamela Hykes O’Grady; motion passed.

Proposed Resolution 07-21: “Adopting a fee schedule for use in assessing members in 2022” – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director and Shawn Hufstedler, MORPC Chief of Staff & Director of Operations

The planned increase for 2021 was put on hold due to COVID-19. This resolution reverts to the planned 2022 rates adopted in 2019. Population estimates will be provided in the fall.

Nancy White made a motion to approve Resolution 07-21, second by David Scheffler; motion passed.

Proposed Resolution 08-21: “Acceptance of the mid-year revision of the fiscal budget and fund account appropriations for the operation of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2021” – Shawn Hufstedler, MORPC Chief of Staff & Director of Operations

Resolution 08-21 increases the total budget to almost \$19.3 million. The revised budget includes additional funding from FTA Section 5310, replenishing the operating reserve, updating depreciation expense with leasehold improvements/purchased furniture and equipment, and revising expectations of funding sources and uses.

Cornell Robertson made a motion to approve Resolution 08-21, second by Laurie Jadwin; motion passed.

Committees

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

Brad Ebersole reported the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) met May 25 for a presentation of the COVID-19 policy briefs and to finalize the new RDAC priority areas. This year, rather than focusing on two or three priorities from the Regional Data Agenda, RDAC created three new permanent working groups which will have a broad but clear area. The new working groups are:

- Regional Data Partnerships and Capacity Building
- Local Government Resources
- Broadband and Digital Equity

Each working group will identify and work on one key initiative at a time. Committee members are being assigned and will begin meeting this summer.

Census 2020 redistricting data will be released August 16. This is the first look at data from the 2020 census below the state level. In May, MORPC submitted a letter to comment on the Census Bureau's proposed changes to the criteria for designating urban areas. The proposed changes could have a combined effect of shrinking the Columbus Urbanized Area and excluding some suburban communities previously included in the urban area. This could negatively impact transportation funding for Central Ohio.

- **COVID-19 Policy Briefs & COVID Impacts on Transportation – Aaron Schill, MORPC Data & Mapping Director**
Aaron Schill presented the [Central Ohio COVID-19 Policy Briefs](#). Through grant funding from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Columbus City Council, and The Columbus Foundation, MORPC worked with partners across the region to develop a series of policy briefs. The briefs provide an overview of the complex issues facing Central Ohio because of the pandemic, serving as a tool for policymakers and community leaders to engage in conversations about the lasting planning and policy decisions that could emerge from the pandemic. A team of consultants supported the work: New Reach on communications and project management; Scale Strategic Solutions for qualitative data collection in the form of interviews and focus groups; and Whitley Jean Designs for graphic design support.

A huge amount of research went into the project. An underlying theme through all the briefs was looking at equity issues in the region with a specific focus on racial and social equity. There are seven topics with one brief for each topic that takes an in-depth look and identifies the most pressing issues the region needs to address going forward. The seven topics are:

- Economic & Community Development
- Employment & Small Business
- Housing
- Public Health
- Social Sector
- Technology & Broadband Access
- Transportation

Across all seven briefs one thing stood out – some folks were hit harder than others. Some of those disparities play across both income and racial lines. The disparities that existed in our communities before the pandemic have elevated during the pandemic.

The policy briefs are only as valuable as the conversations and policies that they help to inform. MORPC will be going out to different groups in the community to discuss how we can help inform and lead to a more equitable and well-rounded recovery for all Central Ohio residents. Mr. Schill encouraged members with three calls to action:

- Reflect on your own work and identify a key issue or data point that can inform or change your approach
- Post about the briefs on social media or email the link to your network
- Connect with MORPC to co-host a conversation with a community group or organization, or host your own discussion

The policy briefs are available online at: morpc.org/covid19policybriefs.

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

Chair Angelou called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:26 p.m. The session adjourned at 2:39 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

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

Jim Schimmer presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). Virtual Riverfest is June 21-25; The theme is Wellness and Water. The goal of Riverfest is to promote stewardship of natural resources by fostering a direct connection to local water resources and effecting behavior change. This year we are emphasizing diversity in water recreation by partnering with the African American Male Wellness Agency to provide resources to our community and connect the dots on the benefits of water recreation and water conservation awareness.

The next Sustainable2050 quarterly meeting is June 11. The featured topic is air quality in the region with a presentation from MORPC's Dr. Brooke White and Franklin County Public Health's Jennie McAdams on a new neighborhood level air quality monitoring project with special focus on measuring air pollution exposure in vulnerable communities. The Cities of Reynoldsburg and Grandview Heights were selected for the MORPC/OSU City & Regional Planning Sustainability Technical Assistance Pilot Program. Through this partnership, Sustainable2050 members can apply to receive graduate level assistance on a planning project through existing studio classes in the OSU City and Regional Planning program.

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

Ben Collins presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). MORPC's Government Affairs Team has been advocating on several pieces of legislation since the Commission last met. Mr. Collins encouraged members to read MORPC testimony and letters on MORPC's Government Affairs [webpage](#) and consider weighing in on issues that affect the region and our communities. MORPC can share a template with language you can use to develop your own testimony. The Regional Policy Roundtable's next meeting is August 10.

- **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:

- HB 2 – Residential Broadband Expansion
- HB 283 – Distracted Driving
- RAISE Grant – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity – July 12 deadline
- Transportation & Infrastructure Earmarks
- Member Designated Projects and Competitive Advantage Projects
- Columbus Region Coalition Funded Projects
- HB 110 – State Operating Budget
- Central Ohio Defense Group

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

Commission Consent Agenda

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

Other Business

William Murdock reminded members there is no July Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Secretary
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission