

CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**Adopted by the CORPO Committee November
2021**



Table of Contents

Introduction.....1

Participation.....1

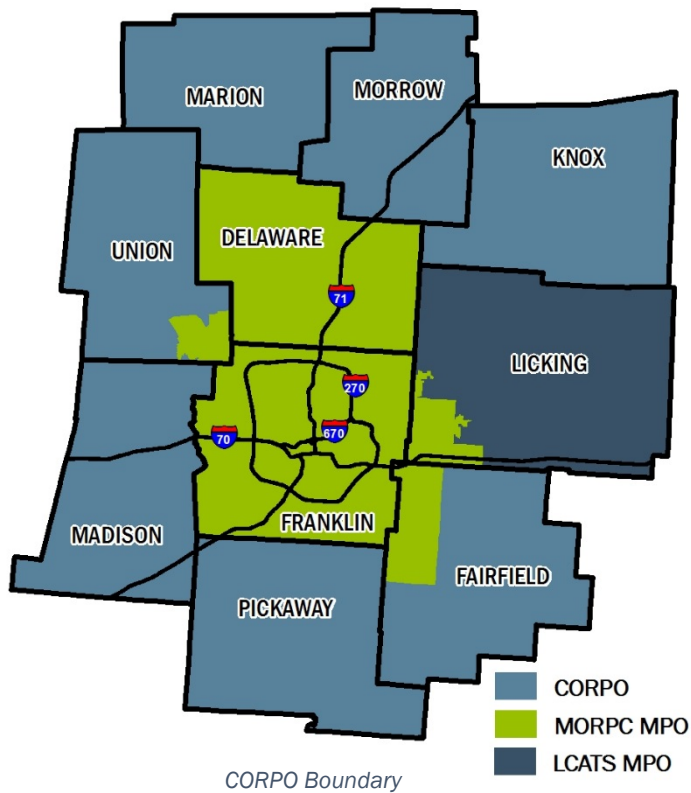
Objectives.....2

Committee Structure.....3

Public Outreach.....4

INTRODUCTION

Since 2016, the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) has been a forum to conduct coordinated, comprehensive and continuing regional transportation planning for this predominately rural area. CORPO membership includes Fairfield, Knox, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union counties.



The primary products developed by CORPO are the CORPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (CTP), the CORPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP / RTIP) and other transportation-related planning documents and activities.

CORPO is a committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), which provides technical, administrative, and staffing support to CORPO's members via funding provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The purpose of this document is to outline the public participation process CORPO will adhere to when developing planning products.

The development of and any changes to this plan have been approved and adopted by the CORPO Committee.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

This document outlines the structure by which member counties, local elected officials, businesses, organizations, private citizens, and any other interested parties from across the region may participate in the CORPO **transportation planning process**. The participation of CORPO members, subcommittees, partner agencies, regional stakeholders, and the general public is key to the success of CORPO and vital to fostering inclusive local government and coordinated decision making.

Establishing an open and flexible public participation process will stimulate collaboration between member counties, stakeholders, and the public.

OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure a process with which the public is given the opportunity to become part of the Central Ohio Rural Transportation planning process through a variety of methods.
2. Promote the timely circulation of notices, planning issues and information regarding the planning process to the public.
3. Provide transparency of all information and data gathered and developed during the transportation planning process.

CORPO's primary communication outlet for outreach to its members will be the CORPO Committee meetings, CORPO subcommittee meetings and any other related correspondence with members (see Committee Structure section below). CORPO anticipates that its member counties will utilize their current public involvement methods for the circulation of general information, public meeting notices and plan documents to provide notice of public comment periods. Any other timely information regarding the transportation planning process will be included.

CORPO and/or its members may utilize numerous outlets to share information. These outlets may include but are not limited to emails, newsletters, public meetings, and websites. CORPO will also host CORPO Committee, Subcommittee, and special meetings or open houses as needed before any planning products are adopted.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Public participation is an opportunity for the public to positively influence transportation decision making. CORPO will, through its committees, staff, representatives, members, and other partners, work to ensure that the needs of all segments of the population are represented in the transportation planning process. Stakeholder interest in this process can be public, private, or professional, and representative of any transportation mode.

CORPO COMMITTEE

The CORPO Committee, a committee of MORPC, provides representation from elected officials and other stakeholders from CORPO-member counties to develop a rural transportation plan. CORPO Committee meetings are open to the public and meeting dates, agendas, and minutes will be displayed on the MORPC website as well as emailed to all CORPO members for circulation.

CORPO COUNTY SUBCOMMITTEES

County subcommittees are composed of representatives from diverse backgrounds. These include local municipalities, transportation agencies, transit services providers, mobility managers, public utilities, economic development organizations, the private sector, academia, and others. The subcommittees advise and guide CORPO in the development of all elements of the transportation plan as well as carry out most of the

public involvement in this process. It is intended that the member counties will be the driving force in this process.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

To facilitate collaboration in developing multi-modal transportation planning products, it is the responsibility of the County subcommittees to provide government, industry, and residents with the information needed to understand what the problems are, what actions are proposed, what the effects will be, and when each element of the program will be ready for public use and/or input. The CORPO County Subcommittees, will be the primary means of involving transportation stakeholders and the public in the planning process.

However, CORPO staff will assist in the planning and facilitation of public meetings, events, and media announcements when and where appropriate. The public participation plan and process is designed to give members, stakeholders, and the public an opportunity to participate in, review, and comment on the transportation planning process and other related activities.

Although, much of the public participation process will be administered at the county level via each County Subcommittee, CORPO staff will also provide the public with a chance to review and comment on the planning products before adoption by the CORPO Committee. As CORPO staff develops its transportation planning projects, with county subcommittees (which exist to advise the CORPO Committee) the CORPO Committee and staff will work to incorporate the input of the county subcommittees into the development of transportation planning products.

CORPO will utilize the MORPC facilities and website for public involvement in the transportation planning process. CORPO Committee meetings and, when appropriate, stakeholder and public engagement events including open houses, will be held at MORPC's office. A page for CORPO activities is available on the MORPC website which includes information presented at meetings and other events as well as links to virtual meetings, newsletters, and other documents in a digital format.

The public involvement process will also include the cooperation and collaboration of local governments and sub-committees via email, social media, newsletter, meetings, and special events. The Subcommittees are expected to facilitate public involvement at the county level by utilizing their own structures and meeting spaces in their respective counties. These various methods will be utilized for public participation before the adoption of planning products by the CORPO Committee.

CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

CORPO staff is given the authority to make minor changes to wording within this Public Participation Plan to ensure the information is current and directed toward relevant and accurate supplementary sources.

Significant changes or amendments to the plan must be made available to the public for at least a 30-day comment period prior to approval. The updated plan or amendment is brought before the CORPO Committee for approval.

The most up-to-date version of the plan will be made available in a web-friendly format that includes a link to the printable PDF version. Printed copies are available upon request.

Refinement of Process

CORPO staff will periodically review the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the Public Participation Plan with regard to technology, people, and strategies in an effort to ensure a full and open participation process.