Overview
The City of Columbus requested MORPC technical assistance to develop a new citywide Speed Management Program to better address the needs of city neighborhoods regarding speeding, traffic safety, and quality of life. The objective of the new Speed Management Program is to proactively identify, prioritize, and address speeding concerns which impact quality of life, public health, traffic safety, and mode choice for our growing region.

Services Provided
MORPC collaborated closely with City of Columbus Department of Public Service staff to develop a GIS-based tool that identifies locations throughout the city with the highest need and opportunity for improvement. The tool relies on available data to evaluate where there is the greatest potential for speeding-related safety concerns. The tool produces a final “score” based on the data inputs that can be used to prioritize locations throughout the city for further study.

Program Deliverables
After developing, testing, and revising the Speed Management tool, MORPC staff packaged the GIS-based tool into a format that would allow the City of Columbus to store, use, and edit the tool as necessary. The tool was also accompanied by a Speed Management Framework document that describes how the tool was developed, how it can be used, and recommendations for the process of using the results from the tool to prioritize infrastructure investments.

Community Implementation
City staff intend to use the output of the Speed Management tool to prioritize locations in need of traffic calming as part of the neighborhood traffic calming program. Once data are collected for streets identified through the tool, City staff will engage with area commission representatives, civic associations, or neighborhood groups to assess current safety and speed related issues. Subsequent touch points will offer opportunities for input on potential strategies to resolve the identified issues. Based upon available funding, final project locations will be selected for implementation of speed management treatments.

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