



MORPC's Economic Development District

County Visits, Designation Updates, and Next Steps



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Economic Development Districts (EDD)

Economic Development Districts (EDDs) are areas designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and serve as **multi-jurisdictional collaborative agencies**

EDDs help lead locally-based, **regionally driven economic development planning** by leveraging public, private, and non-profit sectors and establishing a **strategic development plan** for regional collaboration

This strategic plan known as the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**, was developed by MORPC with support from One Columbus and the 11 counties of the Columbus Region in 2021 and **approved by the EDA in early 2022**



MORPC

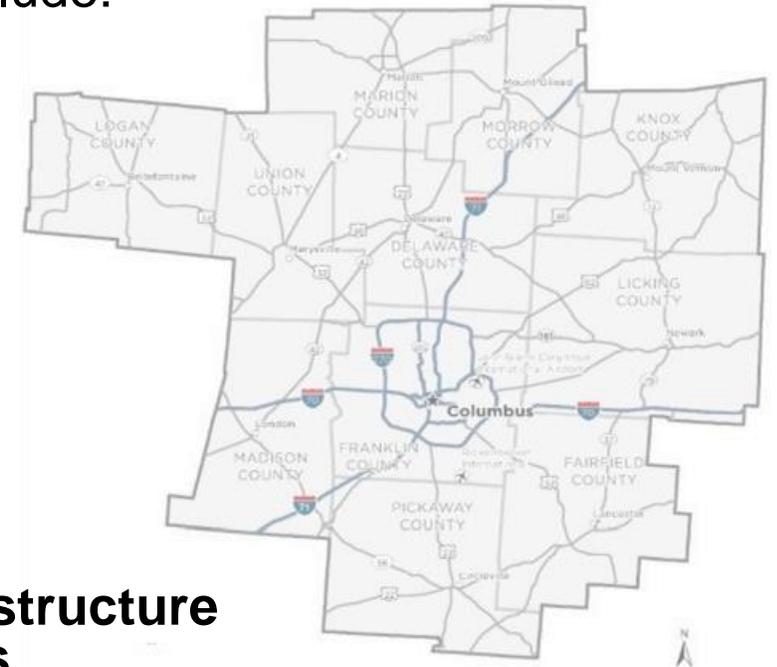
The Economic Development District Role in the Columbus Region

The Columbus Region encompasses **11 counties** of central Ohio including Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union. The role of the EDD within the region would include:

- Facilitating and **administering EDA grant funding** for public and private entities
- **Providing EDA technical assistance** to local communities
- **Collaborating** with **One Columbus**, and supporting existing economic development framework in the region

MORPC will coordinate across the region on **workforce** needs, **infrastructure planning**, **funding** opportunities, and **economic development goals**.

The **EDD designation** proposal will be **submitted by MORPC** with the approval of all 11 counties, and the **EDD would be a separate entity** with an **autonomous board**.



Economic Development District Benefits

Public works project grant funding

Economic adjustment **strategy** grant funding

Annual grant **funding** for short and long-term **planning**

Creation of **strategic plans**, market **studies**/analysis, direct **assistance** to firms, and economic impact **studies**

Trade adjustment assistance for firms

Research and national **technical assistance**

Economic development **integration** into **transportation** and **infrastructure planning**

EDA Grant Programs



Successful EDDs are consistently **partnering with local governments and businesses** to seek EDA **grant funding** for **job-creating projects**. The EDA offers two primary funding programs:

- **Economic Adjustment Assistance Program** – the EDA’s more flexible funding program, allowing for the funding of market or environmental studies, planning and construction grants, and capitalization of revolving loan funds to help small businesses
 - Grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$1 million and average around \$650,000
 - Approximately \$37 million available annually
- **Public Works Program** – Assists distressed communities to revitalize, expand, or upgrade physical infrastructure with the goal of attracting economic activity
 - Grants range from \$600,000 to \$3 million and average \$1.4 million
 - Approximately \$120 million available annually

EDD Designation Requirements

- **Economic Distress**

- At least one geography in the district must meet at least one measure of **economic distress**, including
 - An unemployment rate 1% higher than 24-month national average
 - Per capita income 80% or less of the national average
 - Special need

- **Approved CEDS** – a full analysis of the region’s economy, determines the direction that it must go to maximize development potential and establish economic resiliency: Latest update **approved January 2022**

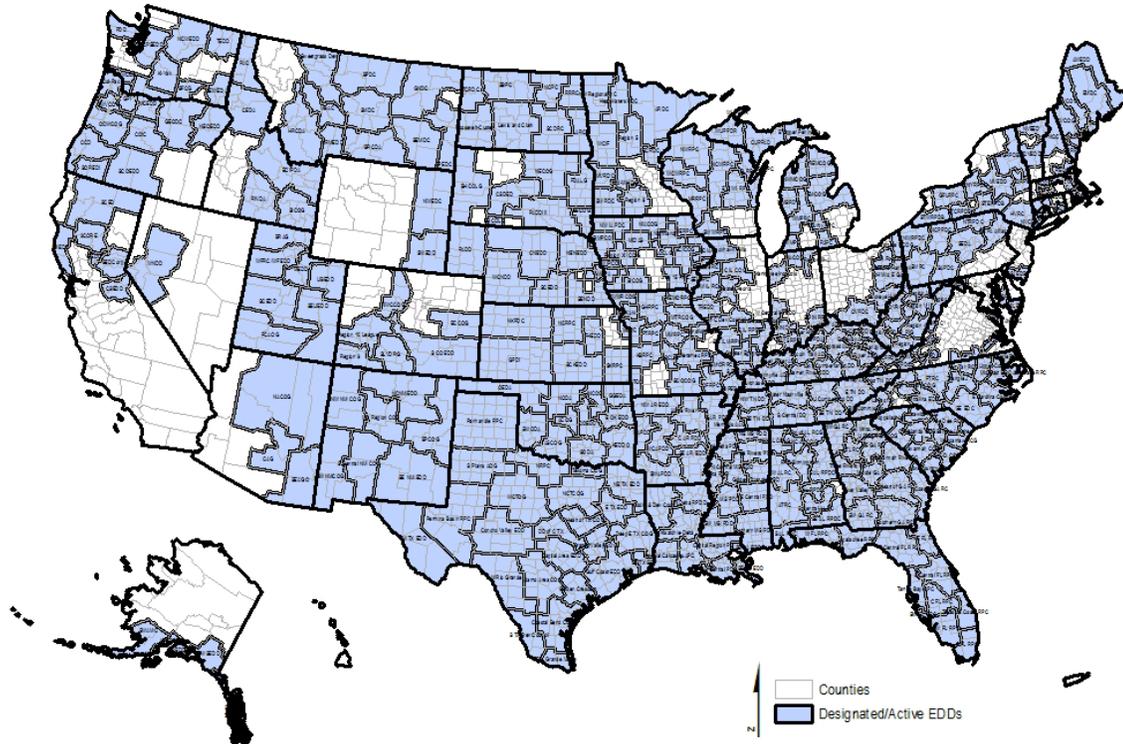
- Economic development summary of the area
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis
- Strategic direction/action plan
- Evaluation framework/performance measures
- Economic resilience strategy
- Intra-district cooperation, self-help, and public investment plans

Economic Development Districts:

Across the United States



Economic Development Districts (EDDs)
March 2019



State of Ohio

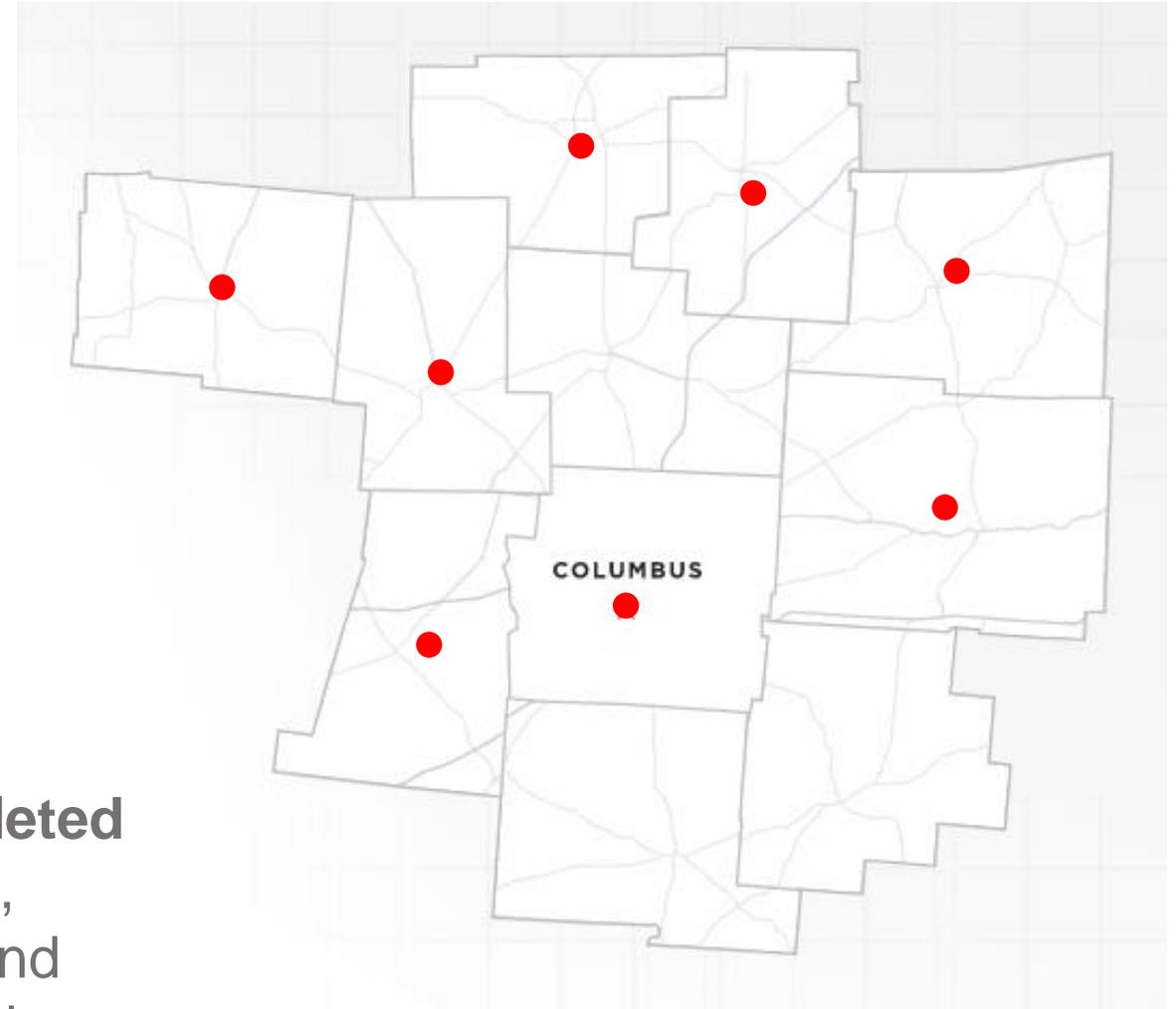
Currently there are 6 active EDDs in Ohio:

- Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District
- Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
- Maumee Valley Economic Development District
- Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization
- Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association
- Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

Dayton, Toledo, Cleveland, and other major areas in Ohio are beginning this process

County Visits & Updates

- This summer, MORPC is **visiting each of the 11 counties** in the Columbus Region to provide a **CEDS, CAP and EDD designation update**.
- MORPC is presenting to County Commissioners, Mayors and Economic Development leaders in the region in an effort to **garner a letter of support** for the **EDD designation application**.
- As of August 10th, 2022, MORPC has **completed meetings** with Franklin (pre), Logan, Marion, Madison, Knox, Union (pre), Morrow (pre), and Licking, with the remaining three counties being scheduled in August and September.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Opportunities

Safe Streets and Roads for All

- \$6 billion is available over the next five years
- Funds will support local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets.

Clean School Bus Program:

- \$5 billion is available over the next five years
- Funding replaces existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models
- Funds may be prioritized for rural or low-income communities and entities that have matching funds available

Reconnecting Communities Pilot:

- \$1 billion over the next five years
- Dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure

Key Takeaways



- Increased **regional collaboration** will provide more opportunities for development and transportation projects.
- With an EDD designation, the counties of the Columbus Region will gain more **opportunities for federal funding**.
- Currently, MORPC has already **received five (5) letters of support** of the six (6) minimum required to submit the designation request.

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