MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

NOTICE OF A MEETING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
BOARD ROOM

Thursday, September 4, 2025
1:30 p.m.

Virtual Option
To join by video, click on "Join Microsoft Teams Meeting" below.
Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 221 619 410 525
Passcode: Wv74HS9z

If you choose to participate virtually, please provide notification to Shari Saunders by September 2. Reminder, you must be on camera during the meeting.

If you are unable to attend in person or virtually but would like to listen live, use the conference call information below. Please note you will be unable to vote.
614-362-3056, Columbus
(888) 596-2819, United States (Toll-free)
Phone conference ID: 599 213 000#

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Ben Kessler, Chair

2. **Consent Agenda**
   - **Approval of August 7, 2025 minutes**

3. **Executive Director's Report** – William Murdock, Executive Director

4. **Committee Updates**
   - **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Joseph Garrity, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Ben Kessler
Vice Chair

Laurie Jadwin
Secretary

- **Regional Data Roundtable** – Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning
  - **Population Estimate Overview** – Adam Porr, Research & Data Officer
- **Regional Sustainability Roundtable** – Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning
  - **Proposed Resolution 15-25: "Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement with Sustainable Cities for $87,000 to support Air Quality Monitoring and Community Engagement"**
- **Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board** – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Development Officer

5. **Draft Commission Agenda**

6. **Other Business**

PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR ssaunders@morpc.org IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is
Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 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". Accessible parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. 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 E. Fulton St./S. High St. Bus lines that accommodate this stop are Numbers 1, 4, 8, and 51.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 7, 2025
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: MORPC Board Room

Members Present

LaGrieta Acheampong
Chris Amorose Groomes
Jeff Benton
Laurie Jadwin
James Jewell
Kris Long
Haley Lupton
Matt Starr
Joe Stefanov

MORPC Staff Present

Parag Agrawal
Steve Armstrong
Joe Garrity
Ralonda Hampton
Shawn Hufstedler
Jessica Kuenzli
Eileen Leuby
Kelsey Matson
Shari Saunders
Robert Williams

Guests Present

Savannah Gremling, Intern

Welcome – Chris Amorose Groomes

Acting Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and explained the new virtual meeting policy. Members attending remotely must keep their cameras on to participate. The Executive Committee discussed the new voting options available under the virtual meeting policy. The Committee decided by consensus to use unanimous consent for future votes unless objections are voiced.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Executive Director's Report – Joe Garrity

Joe Garrity presented the Executive Director's Report on behalf of William Murdock who is attending a funeral. Mr. Garrity congratulated Kristen Atha for being recognized as a Woman of Influence by Columbus Business First.

Mr. Garrity provided updates on the Central Ohio Defense Group trip to Washington, DC, highlighting meetings with congressional members. The main focus was the capital defense improvement program project in Whitehall that helps with their water and sewer infrastructure and also supports the Defense Supply Center. The delegation also met with the Defense Logistics Agency Chief of Staff regarding intergovernmental support agreements and learned the need to work with the Army for an agreement.

Ohio EPA will provide $250,000 annually for the next two years to support the 208 planning process. Next steps for MORPC being designated a 208 areawide planning agency include a 30-day public notice period followed by the designation going to the governor and then to the U.S. EPA. The process is expected to be completed this fall.

Mr. Garrity and Parag Agrawal discussed the efforts to secure local match funding for the Midwest Connect project, with $350,000 from Central Ohio communities and $350,000 from Indiana. They also highlighted the ongoing collaboration with the business community and the Federal Railroad Administration to advance the project. Consultant Ann Aquillo was hired to enhance that collaboration.

Mr. Garrity spoke about the bipartisan infrastructure law expiring in September 2026 and the strategic advantage of having key Central Ohio congressional members on relevant committees. Central Ohio was successful in securing three RAISE grants.

The August 14 Pre-Commission lunch with Derrick Clay is rescheduled for November 13.

Mr. Garrity invited members to a Post Commission Reception next week to honor Bill Habig and local artists, Benjamin Crumpler and Mac Worthington. Mr. Habig donated four art pieces to MORPC.

Chair Amorose Groomes recognized Savannah Gremling. Ms. Gremling is a summer intern serving the City of Marion. Jessica Kuenzli is her mentor. Ms. Gremling, who is studying environmental policy at Ohio State, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to witness the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report – Chris Amorose Groomes
Acting Chair Amorose Groomes presented the Nominating Committee Report on behalf of Ben Kessler who is on vacation. Chair Amorose Groomes shared the Nominating Committee met two times to put together the slate presented today. The Commission will vote next week on the following recommendations from the Nominating Committee:

- Nominees for Officers for renewed one-year term (expires 2026)
  - Chair – Chris Amorose Groomes, Mayor, City of Dublin
  - Vice-Chair – Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley
  - Secretary – Laurie Jadwin, Mayor, City of Gahanna
- Nominees for Executive Committee – renewal of one-year term (expires 2026)
  - Joe Stefanov, Chair of Benefits & Compensation Working Group, City Manager, City of New Albany
  - Chris Amorose Groomes, Commission Chair, Mayor, City of Dublin
  - Jeff Benton, Chair of Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging Transition, Commissioner, Delaware County
- Nominees for Executive Committee – renewal of two-year term (expires 2027)
  - Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley
  - James Jewell, Township Administrator, Prairie Township
- Nominees for Executive Committee – new two-year term (expires 2027)
  - Kelly Scocco, Director of Public Service, City of Columbus
  - Steve Schoeny, City Manager, City of Upper Arlington
  - Jeff Fix, Commissioner, Fairfield County

Chair Amorose Groomes thanked Kristen Atha who is moving off the Executive Committee. Ms. Atha was a great contributor, particularly as it related to the 208 water planning project.

Quarterly Financial Statements – Shawn Hufstedler
Shawn Hufstedler presented the Quarterly Financial Report 2025 Q2 noting the full report is in the meeting packet. Mr. Hufstedler shared that underspending typically comes from high estimates and delays in funding. He anticipates bringing a budget revision later in the year to align the high estimates and actual spending.

Mr. Hufstedler gave an update on cash and investment balances. While the cash balance at the end of June was low, the balance is up to $1.4 million today.

Mr. Hufstedler and Robert Williams discussed the progress and challenges of the weatherization program, including the need for more clients and the positive impact of restructuring the contractor payment schedule. Despite challenges, significant progress has been made in the weatherization program.

Actual fringe and indirect rates are unfavorable at this point of the year due mainly to lower than projected direct labor.

Mr. Hufstedler addressed the higher-than-desired accounts receivable balance and the efforts to improve the situation, including evaluating staff capacity and addressing federal program delays.

Regional Policy Roundtable – Joseph Garrity
Joe Garrity provided updates on the state operating budget, housing initiatives, and federal funding for regional projects. Mr. Garrity shared there are ongoing discussions and potential legislative changes related to property taxes, including the governor's task force and advocacy efforts. The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is August 19 at Columbus City Hall. Mr. Garrity is working with the Columbus Partnership on an event in September regarding the state capital budget.

Regional Data Roundtable – Jessica Kuenzli
Jessica Kuenzli provided updates on the Regional Data Roundtable leadership changes, developing the Regional Data Agenda Working Group, and the upcoming presentation at the Commission meeting.

Regional Sustainability Roundtable – Jessica Kuenzli
Jessica Kuenzli shared that a more robust update will be given at the Commission meeting as well as an air quality update.

- **Proposed Resolution 13-25: "Adoption of MORPC's 2025-2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda"**
  Ms. Kuenzli presented the 2025-2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda. The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee was comprised of Regional Sustainability Roundtable members and regional stakeholders. Ms. Kuenzli honored Village of Somerset Mayor Tom Johnson who passed away in October. He was a respected leader and champion of innovation, sustainability, better growth, and mentoring future leaders.

  Ms. Kuenzli highlighted the goals, objectives and strategies. Next steps include forming a working group to update the Sustainable2050 certification process to align with the new agenda.

  Laurie Jadwin commended Mike Shelton for leading the committee that worked on the agenda.

  Resolution 13-25 was approved by unanimous consent.

Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board – Parag Agrawal
Parag Agrawal shared that the TIP Amendment on the consent agenda for Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board meeting next week amends three projects in Central Ohio by making funding adjustments.

Mr. Agrawal provided updates on the status of various federal grants received by Central Ohio and the progress in finalizing contracts and starting projects.

Today was the first of seven sessions for the Economic Development Academy whose goal is to provide tools for attracting and retaining jobs in Central Ohio. Forty-eight people participated in today's class.

Additional topics Mr. Agrawal will cover at next week's meeting include the CAP program, Ohio Infrastructure Report Card, and Ohio Safety Belt Taskforce recommendations.

Proposed Resolution 14-25: "Authorizing the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to join the Regional Council of Governments for the Central Oho Area Agency on Aging, authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement establishing the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging as a Regional Council of Governments, approving the Bylaws of the Regional Council of Governments for the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging" – Joseph Garrity
Joe Garrity and Jeff Benton discussed the transition of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging to a Regional Council of Governments, highlighting the steps taken and the support from local governments.

Resolution 14-25 was approved by unanimous consent.

Quarterly Membership Update – Eileen Leuby
Eileen Leuby presented the Member Services Report highlighting the success of the summer intern program, sharing stories of interns' experiences and the positive impact on their personal and professional growth.

Draft Commission Agenda
The Executive Committee reviewed the draft August 14, 2025 Commission Meeting Agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary
Executive Committee

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111 Liberty St., Suite 100
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Memorandum

TO:	Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee Officers and Board Members
FROM:	Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Director
DATE:	August 29, 2025
SUBJECT:	Proposed Resolution 15-25: **"Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement with Sustainable Cities for $87,000 to support Air Quality Monitoring and Community Engagement"**

With funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, MORPC and Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) launched the CLEAN project—a community-driven effort to better understand neighborhood-level air pollution in Franklin County, Ohio. Currently, there are 36 air quality sensors placed across the county, with a focus on historically underserved communities. These sensors measure particulate matter pollution neighborhood-by-neighborhood to help inform local strategies for improving air quality and community health.

Due to the team's extensive outreach work, the utility of low-cost air quality monitoring is generating considerable interest from local government members, community groups, and residents. MORPC and FCPH have received multiple requests in the region from parties interested in placing sensors at their locations, especially considering the region's rapid growth.

To meet the demand and to support a more extensive air monitoring network and community participation beyond our current grant, MORPC requested funding from the Sustainable Cities fund to purchase additional sensors and expand our public education and engagement efforts. With the $87,000 funding award, the team will develop community workshops, create a best practices toolkit, and pilot these approaches in partnership with City of Columbus. Leveraging this work, the team will create an equipment lending library and the resources necessary to offer technical support to areas outside of Franklin County in the future.

Attachment: Resolution 15-25

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Ben Kessler
Vice Chair

Laurie Jadwin
Secretary

RESOLUTION 15-25

"Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement with Sustainable Cities for $87,000 to support Air Quality Monitoring and Community Engagement"

WHEREAS, MORPC and Franklin County Public Health launched the CLEAN project to establish a community-driven air sensor network to better understand neighborhood-level air pollution in Franklin County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, there is growing interest in expanding this air sensor network beyond the currently funded project from local governments, organizations, and community members; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Cities funding will allow the project team to expand our air quality work now and into the future, to better meet the needs and concerns of our region, with additional equipment, community engagement, and resources to replicate air monitoring within and outside of Franklin County.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE **MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**:

Section 1. That the executive director is authorized to enter into an agreement with Sustainable Cities for up to fifteen months to utilize grant funds totaling $87,000 and enter into related subcontracts.

Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.

Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Section 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Effective date:	August 14, 2025
Submitted by:	Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer, Planning Department
Prepared by:	Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Director, Planning Department
Authority:	Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21
For action date:	August 14, 2025