MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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MORPC in the News

September 2025

AIR QUALITY

1. **SPECTRUM**
   Air Quality Alert Issued for Central Ohio
   An Air Quality Alert has been issued for central Ohio for Friday as temperatures continue to remain high. (9/18/25)

2. **10TV**
   Air Quality Alert Issued for Central Ohio Friday due to Elevated Ozone Levels
   An Air Quality Alert has been issued for parts of central Ohio on Friday as ozone levels are expected to be elevated. (9/18/25)

3. **FOX 28**
   Air Quality Alert Issued For Central Ohio Due to High Ozone Levels
   The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has issued an Air Quality Alert for Friday, September 19, as air quality is expected to reach levels considered "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups." (9/19/25)

4. **DISPATCH**
   Air Quality Alert Issued For Central Ohio For Friday
   Central Ohio will be under an Air Quality Alert on Friday, Sept. 19.
   Franklin, Delaware, Licking and Fairfield counties are included in the alert, which will remain in effect from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., according to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. (9/22/25)

GROWTH & HOUSING

5. **10TV**
   Columbus War Room Helping Fuel Growth In Central Ohio

William Murdock, AICP *Executive Director*
Chris Amorose Groomes *Chair*
Ben Kessler *Vice Chair*
Laurie Jadwin *Secretary*

Columbus has been named the No. 1 metropolitan area in the country for growth and infrastructure by Site Selection Magazine. Local leaders credit the Columbus War Room with helping boost the region's infrastructure improvements. (9/4/25)

6. **10TV**
   One Year in Boomtown | 10tv.com
   "One Year in Boomtown," dives into central Ohio's explosive growth, highlighting big investments, new residents and a housing crisis straining the region. (9/30/25)

SUSTAINABILITY

7. **NBC4**
   Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission hosts energy summit
   Hundreds of people from across central Ohio gathered for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's annual summit on sustainability. This year's theme is "Local Roots, Lasting Impact." Leaders said they want to highlight how planting seeds can lead to long-term change. (9/30/25)

TRANSPORTATION

8. **SPECTRUM NEWS**
   Columbus traffic among least congested nationwide
   The daily drive to work can feel like a race against the clock. From packed highways to unexpected delays, traffic shapes the way many start and end their day. But new data shows the roads in two major Ohio cities are among the least congested nationwide, and one of makes the list despite its rising population. (9/3/25)

9. **SPECTRUM NEWS**
   Public Comments Sought for Transportation Projects
   Several transportation projects may receive millions in funding over the next few years in central Ohio, and officials are seeking the public's opinion. (9/8/25)

10. **THE SCIOTO POST**
    LOOK AHEAD: $74M U.S. 23/SR 762 Interchange Project Set to Transform Pickaway County Traffic Flow - Scioto Post
    A long-awaited safety and infrastructure upgrade is on the horizon for one of Pickaway County's busiest corridors. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has

announced plans to construct a full-access interchange at the intersection of U.S. Route 23 and State Route 762. (9/9/25)

11. 10TV

Interchange expansion planned for US 23 and state Route 762 in Pickaway County

Plans for expansion on the south side are underway. The Ohio Department of Transportation is planning to build an interchange at the U.S. 23 and state Route 762 interchange in Pickaway County. As it stands right now, there is a traffic light and left turn lanes from U.S. 23 if you're turning onto Route 762. (9/9/25)

12. DELAWARE GAZETTE

Road projects remain in pipeline

The Delaware County Engineer's Office (DCEO) is planning for the near future with plenty of road projects through 2029. The office prepared an 8-page "Delaware County Silicon Heartland 20/40 Minute Group Update" in February. (9/9/25)

13. WOSU Media

Public, private sector talk central Ohio housing solutions at Housing For All conference

Central Ohio public officials, organizations and private-sector developers spent Friday talking about housing and how to prepare the region for expected rapid growth at the third Housing For All conference. The conference, hosted by Urban Land Institute Columbus, focused on the theme, "What Good is Growth If It's Not for All?: Planning Columbus Today and Tomorrow." (9/12/25)

14. CANTON REPOSITORY

Emilia Sykes advocates for passenger rail stop in Akron-Canton

The Ohio Department of Transportation needs to consider an Akron-Canton passenger rail stop as part of its future planning, U.S. Rep. Emilia Sykes says. The congresswoman, who serves as vice ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, sent a letter to Gov. (9/12/25)

15. CLEVELAND.COM

Ohio Lawmakers Look to Weaken Cuyahoga County's Grip on Regional Transportation Decisions

Some Republican lawmakers are preparing legislation to seek the most significant state reforms ever to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, which has enormous influence over transportation projects in the region, and 16 other metropolitan planning organizations. (9/12/25)

16. **10TV**
    Columbus Eyes Passenger Rail Return by Late 2030s.
    It's been 46 years since the last passenger train rolled out of Columbus. Amtrak departed the city in 1979, leaving Ohio's largest city as the country's biggest metro without passenger rail. Plans for a comeback, spearheaded by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), have gathered federal interest and public support, but the road ahead remains long. (9/16/25)

17. **NBC4**
    Discussion held about future of passenger rail in central Ohio | NBC4 WCMH-TV
    The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission held a discussion Tuesday about the future of passenger rail in central Ohio. The executive director of MORPC, William Murdock, called this a transformative project that could not only bring Ohio to the forefront of rail transportation but also bring about significant economic impact. (9/16/25)

18. **MSN** (Story by WSYX 6)
    Former U.S. transportation secretary to speak at Columbus rail roundtable on growth
    Central Ohio is on track to become the fastest-growing region in the Midwest, with projections indicating it will surpass three million residents by 2050. Despite this growth, Columbus remains one of the largest U.S. metropolitan areas without passenger rail service. (9/16/25)

19. **SPECTRUM NEWS**
    Ex-Transportation Secretary pushes passenger rail in Ohio
    Central Ohio is once again talking about passenger rail, and this week, state leaders are taking a step that could shape what that future looks like. The Ohio Rail Development Commission is set to vote on the state's long-term rail plan. While the plan leans heavily on freight, it doesn't rule out passenger rail — something advocates say is critical as central Ohio grows. (9/17/25)

20. **DISPATCH** (USA Today also featured this story from the Dispatch)
    Former U.S. Transportation Secretary talks passenger rail in Columbus
    Ray LaHood, who served as the United States Secretary of Transportation from 2009 to 2013, stopped by Columbus this week to meet with local leaders about the one form of transportation that continues to elude Central Ohio trains. (9/19/25)

21. OHIO PUBLIC MEDIA

How do commuter trains fare in Ohio's four-year State Rail Plan?

Seven members of a state commission gave the green light Thursday for the latest version of the Ohio Rail Plan, which is mandated by the federal government. The four-year document outlines current and future freight and commuter networks statewide, as well as potential funding programs. (9/22/25)