PASSENGER RAIL IN CENTRAL OHIO

OUR REGION'S LACK OF RAIL IS A *COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE*

Largest Metro without Passenger Rail

No Rail Service in Columbus Since 1979

Expectations from workforce to conferences, tourism, & schools

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

CENTRAL OHIO'S RAIL SOLUTION:
BECOME A HUB FOR THE MIDWEST

Create fast connections from Central & Rural Ohio to Job Centers

Link Columbus to Major Ohio Cities, Pittsburgh, Chicago & NYC/DC

Lean into business and development opportunities

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MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

IMAGINE CONNECTING OHIO

OHIO'S

4 BIGGEST METRO AREAS ARE AMONG THE LEAST WELL-SERVED TOP 50 METRO AREAS

CLEVELAND
COLUMBUS
DAYTON
CINCINNATI

IMAGINE CONNECTING THE MIDWEST

CHICAGO

9.4
MILLION PEOPLE

20%
GROWTH

COLUMBUS

2.2
MILLION PEOPLE

24%
GROWTH

PITTSBURGH

1.7
MILLION PEOPLE

12%
GROWTH

POPULATION / 2040 GROWTH

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CHICAGO
COLUMBUS
PITTSBURGH

OHIO CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM AWARDS

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

THE MIDWEST CONNECT TEAM

The City of Fort Wayne is the lead agency for Midwest Connect.

The City of Fort Wayne has partnered with regional planning agencies Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) for Step 1 of the Corridor ID Program.

The City of Fort Wayne

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

BIPARTISAN AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

80+

Over 80 Letters of Support
for Mid-West Connect from Federal, State, Regional, Local, Private and Non-Profit Organizations

Bipartisan Support
including then Senator JD Vance, Congressman Mike Carey, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty

Business Community Support
including over 20 Letters of Support for Mid-West Connect

Non-Profit Support
including over 20 Letters of Support for Mid-West Connect

BOTH PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Step 1

Planning Grant

What: Develop scope, schedule, cost estimate for Step 2
Why: Capacity-building to deliver subsequent Steps
Duration: Completed

Where we are now:
$500,000 federal planning grant – submitted & awaiting FRA approval

Step 2

Service Development Plan

- *What*: Prepare a *Service Development Plan* (SDP)
- *Why*: Detail route, stations, service, capital improvements
- *Duration*: Likely 1-3 years to complete

Where we are going:
Pending FRA approval – assembling local match to leverage 90% fed funds

Step 3

Engineering + Funding

- *What*: Preliminary engineering, environmental review
- *Why*: Prepare projects for design, construction, service
- *Duration*: Likely 1-3 years to complete

MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

WHY THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT

RAIL EXECUTIVE NETWORK

NOT 2010

WE ARE ALIGNED NOW

2025

RAIL EXECUTIVE NETWORK

4 YEARS STRONG

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

WORKFORCE ATTRACTION

WAR ROOM + OHIO GRANTS ALLIANCE

DELIVERY SYSTEM

LAHOOD ROUNDTABLE & NEXT STEPS

COLUMBUS PARTNERSHIP
+
OHIO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

UPCOMING FRA APPROVALS
+
FRA PASSENGER RAIL NOFO

CURIOSITY TRIP IN 2026
+
ASSISTANCE TO ORDC