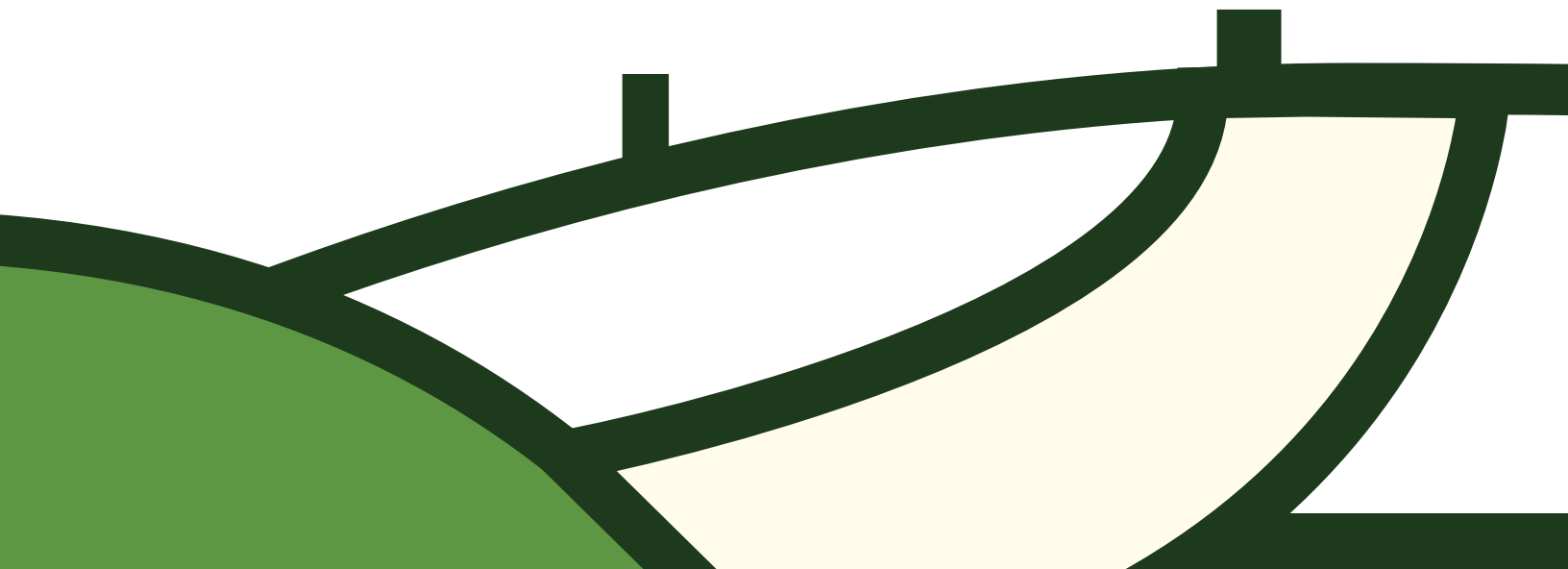


▲ CiWR12EHW



WHO IS MORPC

MORPC is Central Ohio's regional planning organization with 90 members located in a 15-county area comprised of various counties, cities, villages, townships, and regional organizations. These same governments and organizations provide human capital to deliver critical services and community planning to a growing region.

As an association of members, MORPC offers a wide range of direct and indirect services to its diverse membership. Included among these services is a robust and growing Local Government Summer Internship Program with a dedicated Intern Program Coordinator, Alli Mancz. This intern benefit ties into MORPC's prioritization of building a talent pipeline within Central Ohio and the MPO's guiding strategic framework as a top example of the "Pay It Forward" pillar in action.

Intern recruitment efforts extend to all Central Ohio schools in addition to college students who live locally between their spring and fall semesters but may attend a school outside the region. Geographic expansion enables MORPC to widen the search to include candidates from reputable colleges known for their strength in nurturing diverse student bodies, including HBCUs, as well.

This intern program has dual benefits in that it provides opportunities for college students to work in public service positions while bringing fresh resources as well as new perspectives to local governments. MORPC provides each intern with a professional team member to serve as a mentor.

PARTNERSHIP GOAL

The program successfully connected the fellows to local and regional planning experiences, and the fellows were charged with developing projects within the following parameters:

- ▲ Deliver actionable projects in public service;
- ▲ Advance regional Central Ohio Greenways' goals with locally significant projects;
- ▲ Incorporate innovation and creativity into their plans; and
- ▲ Infuse equity and innovation into trail development.



FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

- ▲ The fellows were included in MORPC's 14-week paid program from May 13, 2025 to August 15, 2025.
- ▲ Each fellow was compensated for 35 hours a week during the program.
- ▲ Local government members and organizations were recruited to serve as hosts who hired the fellows as part-time staff members, administered their payroll, and provided supervisors.
- ▲ MORPC paired a staff member with each of the fellows to serve as their mentor.
- ▲ MORPC also provided the coordination of supplemental enrichment programs to introduce the fellows to urban planning experts and model examples of innovative projects throughout the area.
- ▲ The fellows attended educational sessions on regional initiatives and MORPC commission meetings.
- ▲ The fellows were recognized at the 2025 Summit on Sustainability, with Collin Adams' work in the City of Obetz earning special distinction as selected by our 2025 judges.

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

- ▲ Storytelling, communication, and public artwork strategies
- ▲ Trail and/or mobility development and innovation
- ▲ Equity analysis in trails, mobility, or development projects
- ▲ Business development analysis along the trails

APPLICANTS

Interested candidates earning a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University Knowlton School of Architecture submitted their resumes and cover letters to MORPC. MORPC coordinated the students' placements, which included an initial virtual interview, and a review of two references, an application and transcripts. MORPC sends the recommended candidate's materials to the host. Then the host conducts an in-person interview and makes the final decision to hire.

MEET THE 2025 FELLOWS



MORPC Fellowship
Riky Jimenez Cuduco



COTA Fellowship
Taylor Casey



City of Obetz Fellowship
Collin Adams

THE PROJECTS

Each project had a direct or indirect tie to Central Ohio Greenways. The fellows were asked to work within their host communities to develop a local strategy that advanced the regional Central Ohio Greenways' mission of building a world-class network of trails accessible to all for active transportation and recreation usage. Fellows explored strategies to activate trails by connecting them to vibrant land uses, developing enhanced trailheads, integrating public art, and evaluating gaps in trail to transit connections. Meetings were set up to learn more about the history, development expansion, and current conditions of the Central Ohio Greenways and local areas. The central theme and focus of these group discussions was how to improve the connectivity of this extraordinary community so there could be significant impacts on equity and inclusion for under-resourced residents, employees, visitors, and more. Each fellow's final report and presentation slide deck is available for review in the attached appendix.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS

MORPC provided weekly check-in meetings with the fellows and entire 2025 intern cohort which were led by Alli Mancz, MORPC's Intern Program Coordinator. In addition, fellows participated in MORPC's three Rural Forums held in the City of Canal Winchester, Delaware County, and the City of Marysville, respectively focused on community engagement, mobility & workforce development, and local economic vitality. Furthermore, the fellows were encouraged to attend the Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) workshop, MORPC Commissions, planning firm visits to the Neighborhood Design Center and MKSK Studios, and the Social Media Summit throughout the summer as well as MORPC's 2025 Summit on Sustainability in September.

MORPC also held specialized supplemental programs to enhance career-building knowledge, skill attainment, and networking opportunities for all 2025 interns. Social programs included a Clippers Game and summer cookout with MORPC staff as well as a mixer with the Mid-Ohio Development Exchange's (MODE) team of economic development professionals and a Career Planning Luncheon hosted by Intern Program Coordinator, Alli Mancz; Membership Services Officer, Eileen Leuby; and Interim HR Director, Tanya Nardone.

JUDGING

The fellows presented their projects to a panel of four judges on August 11, 2025. Each fellow had fifteen minutes to present a summary of their project and five minutes to answer audience questions. The 2025 judges included:

- ▲ Maria Sambuco, Steiner + Associates, Manager of Operational Services
- ▲ Tim Moloney, Franklin County Metro Parks, Executive Director
- ▲ Dr. Maria Conroy and Dr. Mattijs Van Maasackers, OSU Knowlton School of Architecture, City and Regional Planning Section Associate Professors

RESULTS

The judges concluded that all three projects were outstanding and that one deserved special recognition at the 2025 Summit on Sustainability.

Special Recognition Recipient:

Collin Adams, OSU CRP Masters Student, for his project proposing a Gateway of Regional Significance within the City of Obetz.



FINANCES

PROJECTED FULL COST PER FELLOW			
Rate	Hours	Weeks	Cost
\$18	35	14	\$8,820
Intern Fee			\$675
			\$9,495
3 Interns			\$28,485

APPROXIMATE COST TO HOST			
Rate	Hours	Weeks	Cost
\$9	35	14	\$4,410
			\$675
			\$5,085*

*In addition, the Host paid for their pre-employment costs to hire a fellow as a part-time staff member. Not reflected above is the financial investment MORPC provides to sustain a year-round Intern Program Coordinator and additional team members that provide training opportunities, mentorship, and duties related to program execution.

EASTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – \$5,000

OSU-KNOWLTON SCHOOL – \$6,600

MORPC/CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS & HOSTS' SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS – \$16,885

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

William Murdock, MORPC, Executive Director

FELLOW PROGRAM TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Melinda Vonstein, MORPC, Greenways Planning Studio Lead

FELLOW & LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERN ADVISORS

Eileen Leuby, MORPC, Membership Services Officer

Alli Mancz, MORPC, Intern Program Coordinator

CONCLUSION

MORPC collected feedback from the hosts, fellows, and judges. The hosts were extremely appreciative of the quantity and quality of the fellow's work, and the judges were complimentary of each student's presentation. Each project incorporated an equity component in the work, and the fellows shared with judges and advisors how their projects would enhance mobility and access to resources, including local trailheads and public art. All of the fellows ended up assisting their hosts with additional projects while simultaneously working on their priority project, including the Velo AI Cycling Safety Analysis.

MORPC and the interns' hosts are indebted to the generous sponsorships from OSU and the Easton Community Foundation for offering these three fellows invaluable research, networking, and presentation opportunities. Each project is now better positioned to take advantage of potential funding sources that could turn these unique visions into a reality for future generations' benefit and the greater community's enrichment, and each fellow has been retained past the 2025 summer program for employment at their host community.

For more information, please contact:

EILEEN D. LEUBY

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Membership Services Officer
T: 614.233.4135 | C: 614.381.0111

ALLI MANCZ

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Intern Program Coordinator
T: 614.233.4164