COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS PROGRAM



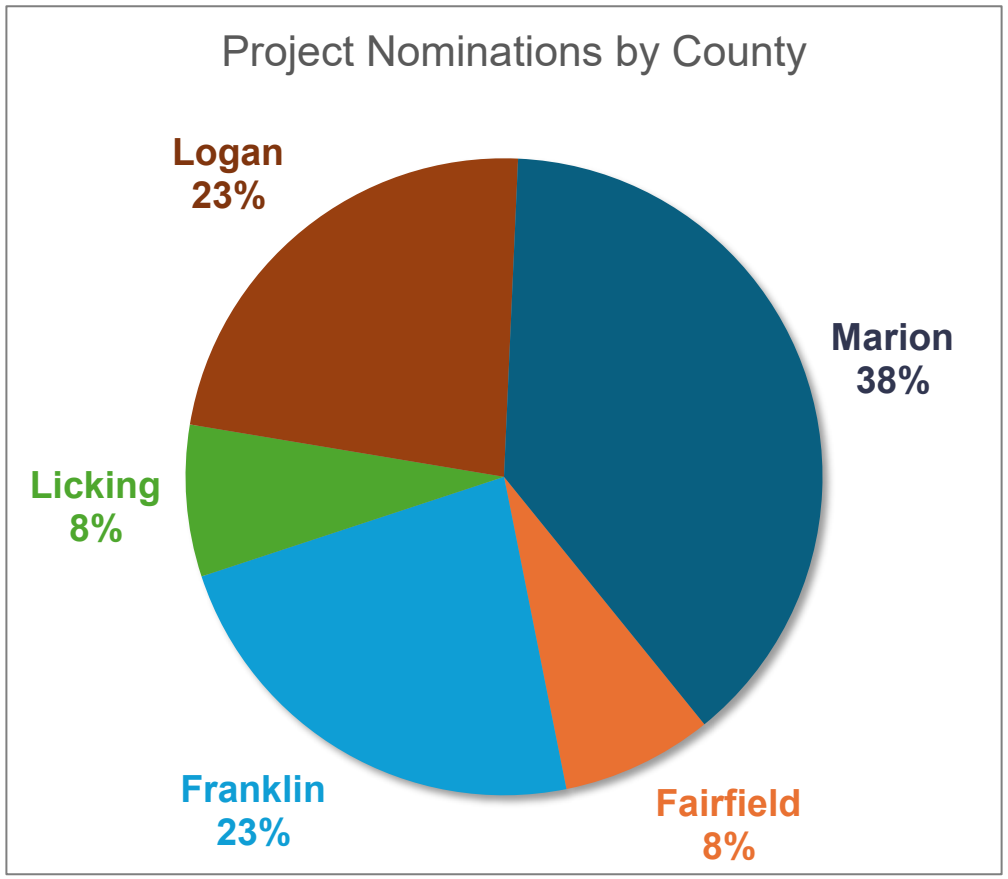
Elise Sawicki

Funding & Infrastructure Coordinator
MORPC

- Competitive Advantage Projects

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS (CAP) MAY 2026 ROUND

MORPC's CAP Program advances growth and economic well-being for Central Ohio communities by driving investments into the region toward strategic and transformative projects.



- Round opened April 20
- Nominations were due May 31
- Received 13 nominations from 5 counties
- Projects include **roadwork, sewer, water, energy, trails, and food access infrastructure**

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS

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Project Tier Definitions

Projects of Regional Significance

- Transformative, multi-jurisdictional projects
- Aligned with multiple program pillars
- Strong community support and partner buy-in
- Capacity for large-scale and long-lasting impact

Tier 1 Projects

- Strong community support and partner buy-in
- Aligned with one or more program pillars
- Align with communities' planning documents and/or identified priorities

Tier 2 Projects

- Have yet to secure strong community support
- Require further planning, community or stakeholder engagement, or articulation to justify advocacy

Program Pillars

- Sustainable and Efficient Economic Growth
- Infrastructure Planning and Implementation
- Economic Resilience
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship



CAP MAY 2026 ROUND: TIER I PROJECTS

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Lead Agency	Project Name	Project Type	Short Project Description
Logan County Chamber of Commerce	Logan County Natural Gas Capacity Expansion	Infrastructure (Energy)	Approx. 30-mile extension of a new pipeline from Sidney, Ohio to Logan County. Will bring new capacity to Logan County and enable the county to compete for more meaningful industrial projects.
LUC Regional Planning	Bellefontaine to Indian Lake Trail Extension	Trail	Multi-modal trail access connecting the 3 largest population areas of Logan County: West Liberty to Bellefontaine to Indian Lake. Will benefit local residents and be an increased driver of tourism.
Logan County	Indian Lake Regional Water Plant	Infrastructure (Water)	Larger capacity regional water treatment plant to support a water system for the entire Indian Lake area. Will enable future residential and commercial development outside the villages
City of Marion	Independence Ave. Extension	Roadwork	Connecting the southern terminus off of Barks Rd. to the northern terminus off of Executive Dr. Anticipate approx. five commercial businesses to develop in the area after the extension, contributing to the creation of 25-50 jobs.
City of Marion	Professional Park Improvements (Sewer Line Redirection)	Infrastructure (Sewer)	Rerouting two force main sewers away from the Cambridge Ave. and Virginia Ave. area which is prone to sewer back-ups. Opens up approx. 40 acres of land for both residential and commercial development.
Marion County Sanitary Engineering Department	Pleasant Township Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment System Phase 1	Infrastructure (Sewer)	Construction of a new wastewater treatment facility along with associated sewer collection system network to serve existing residentially developed areas in Pleasant Township that have aging and failing onsite treatment systems.
Marion County	Patten Pike Sanitary Extension	Infrastructure (Sewer)	Construction of approx. 22,000 LF of new sewer to serve a proposed economic development corridor along Patten Pike in Marion County Ohio.
Marion County Engineer	Legacy Drive - McMahan Blvd to University Dr. Connector Construction	Roadwork	Construction of a connector between McMahan Blvd to University Dr. including a bridge to cross Grave Creek and extension of utilities. Connecting the two roads will open up the remaining acreage for continued residential and commercial development.
City of Obetz	I-270 / Lockbourne Road Interchange and Rickenbacker Workforce Access Corridor	Roadwork	Creation of a new access point on I-270 at Lockbourne Rd which will establish Lockbourne Road as a third north-south access corridor into the Rickenbacker area.
City of Gahanna	Stygler, Agler, US-62 Improvements Project	Roadwork	Improvements to the Stygler Road, Agler Road, US-62 corridor to address poor levels of service, vehicle and pedestrian safety concerns, and to accommodate further economic development.

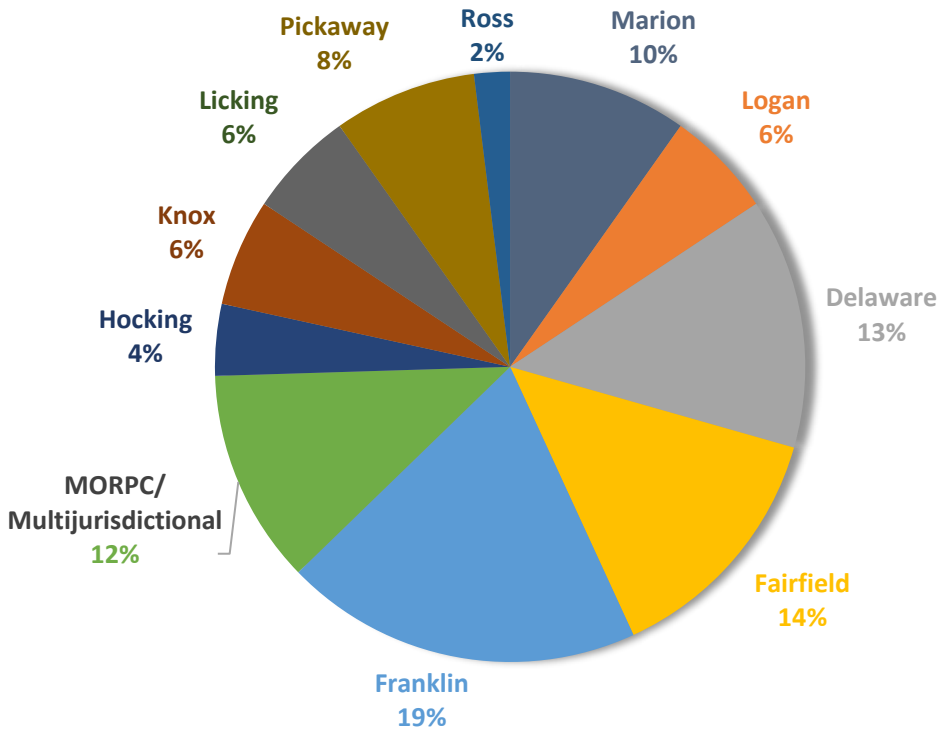
CAP MAY 2026 ROUND: TIER II PROJECTS

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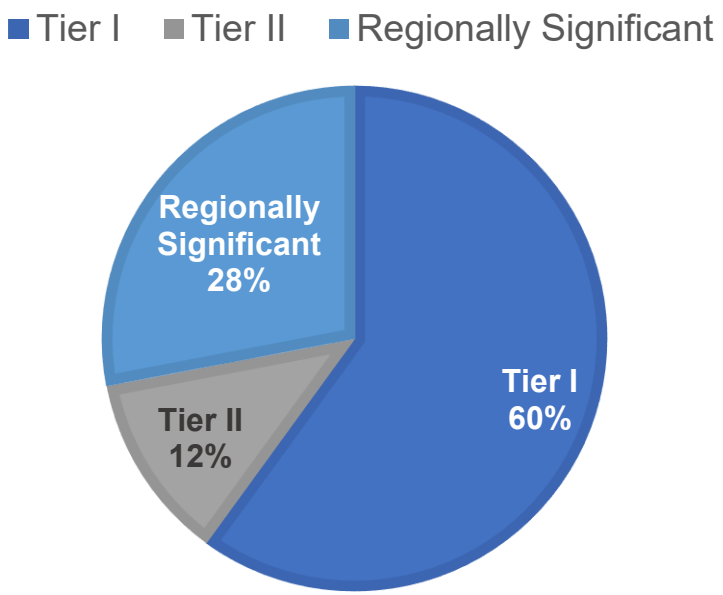
Lead Agency	Project Name	Project Type	Short Project Description
City of Pickerington	256 Shared Use Path	Trail	Construction of roughly 1.25 miles of a multi-use path along the east side of SR 256 from Brookside Drive to Meadows Boulevard.
LCATS	SR16 East of Newark Feasibility Study	Roadwork	Feasibility study for SR16 east of Newark from Dayton Rd to Licking Valley Rd (CR668) to make the corridor full limited access and remove the last three signals on the roadway through Licking County.

AUGUST 2025 + MAY 2026 CAP ROUNDS

Project Nominations by County



Final Projects by Tier



- **52 total nominations from 10 counties**

- **Project types:**
  - Roadwork
  - Water & Sewer infrastructure
  - Trails
  - Placemaking
  - Affordable Housing
  - Energy infrastructure

Elise Sawicki

Funding & Infrastructure Coordinator, Economic Development

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4154

esawicki@morpc.org

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43215

