MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

September 2, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Note: Due to changes in Ohio Revised Code 121.221 regarding public bodies and virtual meetings, the Community Advisory Committee meeting will be aired via live stream. We will note who views the meeting via live stream as information is available.

Live Stream Option
View TAC Meeting via Live Stream
Meeting ID: 272 895 568 637 36
Passcode: Rr6Sf7T6

To listen by phone, use the conference call information below:
(888) 595-9475 United States (Toll-free)
Phone conference ID: 477 428 835#

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions –** Fritz Crosier, Chair

9:04 a.m. **Approval of August 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

9:05 a.m. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report –** Maria Schaper, MORPC, Dave Dixon, MORPC

9:15 a.m. **Funding Programs**
- MPO Funds Project Status Update – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC
- Resolution T-13-26: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP *Executive Director*
Ben Kessler *Chair*
Laurie Jadwin *Vice Chair*
Matthew Starr *Secretary*

- Resolution T-14-26: Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2025 for Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Funding – Tyler Phelps, MORPC
- Section 5310 FY26 Program Update – Hannah Ruscin, MORPC

9:25 a.m. **Resolutions**

- Resolution T-15-26: Supporting the ODOT Federal Performance Target Setting – Jon Heider, MORPC
- Resolution T-16-26: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2026 – Maria Schaper, MORPC

9:35 a.m. **Informational Items**

- Cycling Guide – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC
- Central Ohio Advance Fund Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC

9:55 a.m. **Other Business**

10:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

PLEASE NOTIFY Eva Reda AT ereda@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting is
November 4, 2026, at 9:00am
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.

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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **August 5, 2026**
Time: **9:00am**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Ankrom, Katharine	Comek, Laura	Cox, Barbara
Crosier, Fritz	Jenkins, Tiffany	Moorhead, John
Moran, Alan	Owen, Jonathan	Pajk, Jim
Peoples, Matthew	Schamp, Letty	Tourville, Scott
Upp, Jeremiah	Wilfong, Gary	

Guests

Edwards, Rachel	Hibbard, Tom	Koch, Steve
Komlac, Tom	Petee, Eric	Stevenson, Andrea
Webber, Joe		

MORPC Staff

Dixon, Dave	Graham, Thomas	Heider, Jon
Kuenzli, Jessica	Olmsted, Patty	Ortega, Jeff
Phelps, Tyler	Reda, Eva	Schaper, Maria
Schmuhl, Dan	Smith, Sam	

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Crosier called the meeting to order at 9:00am. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve June 3, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Peoples moved; Mr. Pajk seconded; and the motion passed**.**

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC / Dave Dixon, MORPC

- Ms. Schaper presented the following:
- MORPC's 2026 Regional Economic Development Academy was announced, a series of five training workshops on economic and community development for public officials, school board members, township trustees, public sector staff, community leaders, planners, and economic development professionals. Interested participants were encouraged to contact Padmini Roy-Dixon or Maria Schaper for more information.

- The Ohio Conference on Freight was highlighted, a statewide event hosted by MORPC in partnership with other MPOs and the Ohio Association of Regional Councils. The conference will take place August 24-26, 2026, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown, with registration now open.
- The FTA Section 5310 has apportioned approximately $1.9 million for MORPC to administer projects enhancing mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities in the Columbus urbanized area. A workshop to kick off the funding cycle will be held in September, with further details to be provided by Hannah Ruscin at the next TAC meeting.
- ODOT has published an updated preferred alignment for the I-71 to 23 connector study, reflecting public feedback. Public meetings and stakeholder sessions are scheduled, and a dedicated website provides detailed information, including a summary video and property lookup tool. The study is set to conclude by October 1, 2026, as required by the Ohio Legislature.
- Patty Olmsted and Emily Brown were recognized as for their achievements at the 2026 Association for Commuter Transportation International Conference, where Ms. Olmsted received two individual awards and MORPC was honored as the Midwest Chapter Organizational Member of the Year for leadership in vanpool programs and commuter transportation.
- Mr. Dixon presented the following:
- MORPC monitors ground-level ozone and particulate pollution, issuing daily forecasts and alerts when pollution levels are forecasted to be unhealthy for sensitive groups (AQI 101 or higher). In 2026, five air quality alerts were issued, all during the week of July 13-17, due to a combination of heat wave and Canadian wildfire smoke.
- Mr. Dixon detailed the events of July 16-17, 2026, when a cold front and temperature inversion led to high levels of particulate matter (PM 2.5), reaching hazardous (maroon) AQI levels not seen in decades. The average observed AQI on July 17 was 266, considered very unhealthy.
- MORPC responded to the hazardous air quality by rapidly disseminating information through communication channels, social media, and TV interviews, advising the public to monitor live air quality readings and take precautions such as reducing outdoor exposure, using air filters, and seeking medical help for symptoms.
- A review of the past five warm seasons revealed that 61% of days from May to October were influenced by wildfire smoke, highlighting the significant impact on external factors on regional air quality and the importance of ongoing early monitoring and public awareness.

IV. Funding Programs

- MPO Funds Project Status Update – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC
- Early in the state fiscal year, only planning projects have been encumbered, with most other projects awaiting further action. Some projects have shifted from fiscal year 2026 to 2027, and upcoming dates may see additional progress. The Dublin Road shared use path project had funds reallocated from STBG to TAP.

V. Resolutions

- Resolution T-12-26: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC

- Mr. Schmuhl outlined four projects in the current TIP amendment: a cost increase for the Hilliard Rome Road / Renner Road intersection project, the addition of the Emerald Connector Bridge construction phase, the inclusion of the I-71 southbound to I-270 eastbound interchange ramp environmental phase, and the addition of the COTA Rush Hour Network Evaluation and Optimization Study.
- The Hilliard Rome Road / Renner Road project saw a 42% cost increase due to detailed design findings, drainage challenges, added waterline relocation, and the inclusion of a roundabout for safety improvements.
- Chair Crosier asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-12-26. Ms. Schamp moved; Mr. Pajk seconded; and the motion passed.

VI. Regional Planning Updates

- Federal Performance Targets – Jon Heider, MORPC
- Mr. Heider described how ODOT sets federally required performance targets for each four-year period, with some measures set statewide and other regionally, and explained the committee's role in supporting or establishing targets via board resolution.
- The presentation covered measures for pavement and bridge condition, travel time reliability, and congestion, noting that most targets remain unchanged except for a slight increase in allowable percentage of poor non-interstate NHS pavement due to funding expectations.
- Mr. Heider detailed how emission reductions from CMAQ-funded projects are tracked and discussed regionally specific targets for peak hour excessive delay and non-single occupancy vehicle travel, including the influence of work-from-home trends on recent data.

VII. Informational Items

- Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Applications & MPO Prioritization Process – Tyler Phelps, MORPC
- Mr. Phelps described TRAC as the ODOT entity assigning funding for their major new capacity program with projects over $12 million and typically including interchanges, bypasses, and major transit facilities, while stand-alone bike and pedestrian projects are generally ineligible.
- For 2026, only project development requests for existing projects are eligible, with no new construction funding, and the application and decision timeline has been shortened, affecting the evaluation and prioritization process.
- MORPC will use prior years' evaluation scores for prioritization, and public comments are being accepted through August 31, with input factored into local rankings and forwarded to ODOT and TRAC for consideration.
- Six applications were received, all for project development, including intersection modifications, interchange ramps, and corridor widenings, with each project required to be included in the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan and acknowledged by MORPC.
- Technical Assistance Grants Program Updates – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC
- Mr. Schmuhl reported that five project applications were received in the second quarter, with four projects awarded over $200,000 in total funding, and that the

third quarter application deadline has passed with four new applications under evaluation.

- Mr. Schmuhl noted that the City of Sunbury's master transportation plan application was not funded in the previous round but received feedback and has reapplied, illustrating the program's commitment to supporting applicants and improving project proposals.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:47am.

Maria Schaper, Secretary
Transportation Advisory Committee

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

August 2026

MOBILITY & DEVELOPMENT

Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Development Officer – pagrawal@morpc.org

Transportation

Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director – mschaper@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- The kickoff meeting for the Building Equitable and Safe Transportation (BEST) Initiative was held with the project team including discussion of the public engagement plan and project schedule.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- Franklin County mobility management and Gohio Mobility resources were shared through building new partnerships with South Side Thrive, LSS 211, and the Franklin County Office on Aging.
- Direct public outreach was conducted at the statewide Accessible Ohio Conference and Columbus ArborFest.
- Eleven new Franklin County transportation providers were identified and contacted regarding inclusion in Gohio Mobility.
- 13 resident mobility cases were addressed in July 2026.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released FY2026 apportionments on March 31, 2026. MORPC will receive and distribute $1.9M to fund Section 5310 projects in the Columbus Urbanized Area. The FY2026 5310 cycle will begin in September 2026.
- A revised FY2025 award application was submitted to the FTA in July and is under review by FTA leadership. MORPC staff will develop contracts with all 5310 subrecipients upon approval from FTA.
- The Group Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan update for open door 5310 transportation providers is due to FTA in October 2026. MORPC serves as the TAM Plan sponsor for 5310 providers in the Columbus Urbanized Area, and staff is currently seeking vehicle asset information from transportation providers required for the update.
- FTA released the FY2026 Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity in July 2026. MORPC is exploring an application to the program to support non-

emergency medical trip coordination and cross-county connections in Central Ohio. Applications are due September 9, 2026.

Gohio Commute

- Employer Outreach and Partnerships: Gohio Commute continued employer outreach efforts, including engagement with Anduril Industries, Gap Inc., Nationwide, and JPMorgan Chase, to promote carpool, vanpool, transit, and other commute options and explore opportunities for expanded employer partnerships.
- Vanpool Development and Coordination: Gohio Commute worked with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) employees and existing vanpools to respond to changes in employee work schedules, coordinating adjustments to vanpool schedules and identifying opportunities to fill available seats and maintain viable routes.
- Statewide Rideshare Platform Planning: Gohio Commute advanced development of the RFP for the next statewide Gohio Commute rideshare platform, working with partner agencies to identify required software capabilities, improve program functionality, and prepare for the next-generation platform.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- A TSI Technical Working Group meeting was held on July 30, 2026. Representatives from all four TSI quadrants discussed proposed TSI Policy and Bylaw changes and other program evaluation tools to inform the 2028-2032 CIP development process. Proposed Policy and Bylaw changes will be considered by the TSI Technical Coordinating Committee and Leadership Committee in September and November 2026, respectively.
- Planning is underway for two upcoming TSI construction celebrations for the Washington Township Shier Rings Road Shared-Use Path groundbreaking on Friday, September 18 at 10:00 AM and the Franklin County Engineer's Office Cooke Road Improvements ribbon cutting on Tuesday, November 10 at 1:00 PM.

Passenger Rail

- Preliminary work continues in the Corridor ID process for the Midwest Connect route. Project team members at MORPC, the City of Ft. Wayne, In., and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission continue to work with the Federal Railroad Administration to advance the Midwest Connect corridor. A Central Ohio Passenger Rail Advisory Council meeting will be held in quarter three to discuss progress.
- Passenger rail efforts were highlighted at the Ohio Conference on Freight in a panel on the Columbus to Pittsburgh corridor with speakers from MORPC, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- CORPO is hosting a Goals & Objectives workshop on August 28th with members of the CORPO county subcommittees to kick-off the development of the 2028-2055 CORPO Transportation Plan.
- Planning is underway for the upcoming September CORPO County subcommittee meetings which will be held in each of the 7 CORPO counties during the last two weeks of the month. These meetings will serve as Rural Consultation for development of the 2028-2031 TIP.
- The public comment period on the CORPO Public Participation Plan ended on August 21. No comments were received. A resolution for approval of the updated plan will be on the CORPO November Board meeting agenda.

- CORPO will host a public comment period on the Policies for Managing CORPO Dedicated Funds for the SFY 2028-2029 program from September 1 to October 2. The policies will be on the agenda for adoption at the CORPO November Board meeting. Applications for the funding cycle will open in January.

Active Transportation Planning:

- Work continues on the Regional Active Transportation Plan update, or Central Ohio's Sidewalks, Bikeways, and Trails Plan. The planning team is working through data preparation and collection and preparing for public engagement as part of the Building Equitable & Sustainable Transportation (BEST) Initiative, or the MTP update.
    - Team members attended the Columbus ArborFest on Saturday, August 22nd as an initial public engagement event for these joint planning efforts.
- Work is wrapping up on the US-23 "Pathways for People" Active Transportation Plan. A Final Plan document, online StoryMap Collection, and other key final deliverables are being finalized.
- ODOT's Statewide "Walk. Bike. Ohio. 2.0" Pedestrian and Bike Plan is being finalized. Team members attended an Advisory Group meeting on Monday, August 24th to provide input on the draft strategies in the plan.
- Team members attended the 2026 Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) National Conference between Monday, August 10th and Wednesday, August 12th to learn about innovative projects, programs, and processes, and other best practices and lessons learned to bring back to Central Ohio to improve active transportation opportunities in the region.

Transportation Safety:

- MORPC attended the following safety subcommittee and working group meetings in August:
    - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition, Crash Victim Resources Team Meeting, Tuesday, August 4, 2026.
    - Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation (COAST) Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 2026.
- Complete streets reviews were conducted for the following projects:
    - Alum Creek Drive Widening Stage 3 (PID 115792)
    - Dublin Road Shared-Use Path Stage 3 (PID 119688)
    - SR-161 Busch to Ambleside Shared-Use Path Stage 2 (PID 119855)
- MORPC helped organize and participated in the Central Ohio Greenways "Freedom to Ride" Forum on Monday, August 17, 2026, to learn about and discuss e-bike and micromobility safety, policies, and opportunities with local decision-makers, advocates, and transportation professionals.
- As part of The Ohio State University's "Safe Streets for Buckeyes" Multimodal Transportation Plan, team members attended a bicycling audit of the campus and surrounding areas on Tuesday, August 18th to assess current conditions and identify opportunities to improve bicycling conditions for students, faculty and staff members, and other campus visitors.

Technical Assistance Grants Program:

- Work continues on the City of Gahanna's 2025 Technical Assistance activity.
- Work continues on the Village of Lockbourne's Active Transportation Project Prioritization study. Team members are conducting existing conditions assessments and analyses as setup for additional tasks through this study.

- Applications for 2026 Quarter-3 TA Grants have been evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, and final award selections will be made and announced in early September 2026.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- General upkeep and maintenance of the TIP was undertaken including weekly administrative modifications and coordination with other agencies as needed
- Completed air quality conformity interagency coordination for TIP amendment
- Created, approved, and transmitted TIP amendment to ODOT for inclusion in the October STIP amendment

MORPC MPO Funds

- Prepared and submitted feedback to applicants on new project applications and coordinated meeting times to discuss feedback as necessary
- Continued to update and maintain MPO Funds availability projections were calculated and communicated to eligible applicants for the purposes of planning the program for the current application cycle and beyond as new project information continues to be updated
- Continued discussions on federal reauthorization and planning for its effects on the MPO Funds program

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- Communicated with OPWC as necessary to deal with administrative tasks
- Took questions on Infrastructure Funding applications as necessary

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- Compiled one-page summaries of TRAC applications
- Updated webpage with current TRAC cycle information, including sharing current project application information.
- Initiated public comment period for TRAC
- Finalized priority rankings for projects
- Began preparations for regional presentation of projects

Franklin County Transportation Improvement District (FCTID)

- Hosted August TID meeting and approved resolutions for budget amendments and new agreements
- Continued coordination and advancement of City of Gahanna Supplemental Funding grant and began coordinating a funding agreement.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Padmini Roy-Dixon, Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer – proydixon@morpc.org

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/Economic Development District:

- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee met on August 20, 2026, to provide feedback on the newly drafted Action Plan section of the revised CEDS and to begin development of the Evaluation Framework section.
- On July 30, 2026, Lee Shirey, Ohio's Economic Development Representative from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), visited MORPC and met with several communities in the Economic Development District (EDD) to provide project consultation. The Economic Development Office continues to coordinate meetings between communities and Shirey to provide support on potential EDA applications.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- MORPC's internal evaluation team determined the status – Tier 1, Tier 2 and Project of Regional Significance – of the project nominations submitted to the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) program in May 2026. Input was received on the final list of projects from One Columbus and the CEDS Committee, and the list was reviewed and approved by the Central Ohio EDD Board at the August 13, 2026, Commission meeting.
- The final list of projects was announced in a press release on August 17, 2026, and communities were notified of their projects' status shortly thereafter.

Regional Freight Plan:

- The Regional Freight Plan continues to move forward on schedule. The Request for Proposals (RFP) closed, with submissions due on August 31, 2026. Currently, the proposals are being evaluated through our established procurement process, which is designed to ensure a fair, transparent, and competitive selection.
- Staff anticipates selecting a consultant team shortly after the review process and initiating work on the Regional Freight Plan immediately thereafter. As the plan is developed, the selected consultant will coordinate closely with MORPC and engage with the Central Ohio Freight Advisory Council (COFAC) to ensure the plan reflects regional priorities, stakeholder input, and emerging freight trends.
- The Regional Freight Plan will serve as an important roadmap for addressing freight mobility, economic competitiveness, infrastructure needs, and supply chain resilience across the region. Additional updates will be provided as the consultant selection process is completed and plan development begins.

Economic Development Academy:

- MORPC's Economic Development Academy held its first course for the 2026 program on August 4, 2026. The course, Negotiation of Incentives, included economic development directors from the cities of Westerville and Groveport (Rachel Ray and Michael Loges respectively) and the former City Manager for the City of Delaware (Tom Homan).

  The Academy's next course on Responsible Data Center Development is scheduled for September 22, 2026.

PLANNING

Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning – jkuenzli@morpc.org

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- The Summer COG Forum: Freedom to Ride was held on August 17, 2026, at the Scioto Grove Metro Park in partnership with Burgess & Niple and Metro Parks.
- MORPC updated the printed Central Ohio Bike Map with the Central Ohio Cycling Guide project funded by ODOT. The Guide includes the 6th edition of the printed Columbus Metro Bike Map as well as the 1st edition of a map of regional trails in the 15-county Central Ohio region. This trail map also highlights featured rides that showcase the region's best trails, most scenic locations, and cultural destinations. These maps will be available for free to the region in August. Distribution of the maps began on August 17, 2026.
- Several counties have expressed interest in developing cycling guides similar to those currently underway. The development of a county-specific cycling guide will be a project made available through MORPC's Greenway Planning Studio.
- The Central Ohio Greenways Team has advanced the Building Landscapes of Opportunity and Mitigation (BLOOM) initiative with the development of Ecological Corridors of Regional Significance These corridors are proposed or existing trail corridors where efforts to support the sensitive ecology surrounding the trail are encouraged. They recently secured additional funds from the Columbus Foundation to develop a BLOOM Trail Design Guide.
- The COG Advisory Council will meet again on November 18, 2026, to discuss potential changes to the regional trail vision.
- In 2026, COG will begin adding "Gateways of Regional Significance" to the map to identify existing and proposed locations for premier trailheads that offer the amenities trail users need to travel the trails safely and comfortably. In 2026, the Trail Development Working Group will be developing a definition for a secondary facility called "Bikeways of Regional Significance". The Blueways Working Group will be identifying "Blueways of Regional Significance" and "Eco-ways of Regional Significance".
- Members of the Blueways Working Group, in partnership with the City of Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department, recently participated in a float trip along the Big Walnut Creek. The trip provided the opportunity to explore one of Central Ohio's navigable waterways, experience water recreation assets, and inform ongoing discussions about water recreation opportunities throughout Central Ohio.
- The Trail Towns of Central Ohio Program launched in January 2026 with a cohort of six communities who are participating in a program to develop branding, promotion, and marketing support as well as technical assistance, mapping, and coalition-building. Currently the Cohort is working with a consultant to develop a Trail Friendly Business Program and Merchandise strategy. Six new communities will be invited to participate in the Trail Towns Program in 2027.
- COG submitted a grant to the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program in May. If awarded, it will advance trail and active transportation wayfinding.

Community Based Planning Assistance:

The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program continues to be a resource for members, and we are always looking for ways to improve to better serve your needs. Members can learn more and request assistance from the program by visiting https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance or contacting Juliana Silveira at jsilveira@morpc.org.

- MORPC is supporting Jefferson Township Parks & Recreation Plan. The Data Team delivered a parks accessibility analysis and provided individual park maps as well as an overall map with accompanying

data to illustrate the level of access to their park system. Next steps are to provide visualization diagrams to reflect the plan recommendations.
- MORPC is providing temporary staff planning assistance to the City of Reynoldsburg Development Department. The project kicked off on June 15, 2026, and will close on September 25. 2026.

The yearly event, Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) took place on July 29, 2026, at MORPC's office. Approximately 40 attendees registered for this full day event with a great line up of speakers and APA CM approved for 7.5 credits.

Consultant Services Program

- The Consultant Services Program assists communities with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process through the drafting of RFP documents, prequalifying consultants in the eligible program areas, reviewing initial proposals, and facilitating final presentations.
- Each year, the Consultant Services Program prequalifies consultants to submit proposals for and complete work on long-range planning projects initiated by communities in Central Ohio. Eligible project types include the completion of or updates to comprehensive planning and zoning codes, economic development activities, public engagement, neighborhood or area plans, housing action plans, active transportation plans, and parking plans or assessments.
- The Community Development Team has reviewed and identified pre-qualified entities for 2026 under our Consultant Services Program; additional information can be found at: https://www.morpc.org/consultant-services-program/.
- If you have an RFP you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, please contact consultantservices@morpc.org or Juliana Silveira at jsilveira@morpc.org.

Planner Pool Program

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance through the Planner Pool Program. If you are interested in additional staffing support related to planning, zoning, and/or sustainability, please contact Juliana Silveira to schedule a time to discuss your community's needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.
- MORPC is assembling a list of fixed-fee services that relate to the most common issues communities in Central Ohio are experiencing. Suggestions on potential services are greatly appreciated and can be directed to Juliana Silveira at jsilveira@morpc.org.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

Outreach

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. The MORPC team is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy. Additionally, the team is closely monitoring the advancement of the recently passed ROAD to Housing Act to see how it may benefit the region.

Implementation Assistance

- Are you interested in a housing/growth workshop for your community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders? MORPC is accepting requests for presentations and workshops. Our team will work with you to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Juliana Silveira for more information (jsilveira@morpc.org).

Sustainability

Regional Sustainability Roundtable (RSR):

- The Q3 RSR meeting will take place on September 16, 2026, at SWACO, followed by a landfill tour. Please reach out to Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org for more information.

Sustainable2050:

- The Sustainable2050 Q3 meeting was hosted at the Grandview Heights Municipal Center on August 27, 2026, with a presentation featuring Sustainability in Grandview Heights. The meeting wrapped up with a tour of the municipal center featuring various sustainable building features.
- MORPC and SWACO convened the second Commercial Recycling Working Group meeting on August 20, 2026, to explore municipal approaches for commercial and multi-family recycling, featuring best practices and lessons learned from other communities Interested Sustainable2050 Members can still join the Working Group meetings.
- MORPC Members can join the Sustainable2050 program year-round by passing a resolution of participation. Current Sustainable2050 members can also join the next certification cohort, which will kick off in September 2026. Please contact Brandi Whetstone for more information, or to request a Sustainable2050 presentation, at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Water Resources Program:

Central Ohio Water Advisory Council (COWAC)

- The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026, with the meeting dedicated to a guided tour of the City of Columbus' Blueprint Columbus program. Blueprint Columbus is an innovative, integrated approach to stormwater management that combines green infrastructure with traditional infrastructure improvements to reduce sewer overflows, improve water quality, and enhance neighborhood resilience. The tour will provide an opportunity to see these projects firsthand and learn more about their planning, implementation, and community benefits.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Working Group

- Upon the development of a strategy on the implementation of the recently completed Strategic Framework Action Plan, the Working Group will reconvene and advance priorities applicable to the group.

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- MORPC and Ohio EPA continue to discuss ongoing efforts and options as MORPC continues to pursue 208 designation, specifically on the proposed decision-making process. Additional conversations are ongoing around complementary scope of work to support the 208 plan.
- Areawide Planning Agencies are responsible for updating and maintaining a region's water quality management plans which incorporate the 208 plans for wastewater.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- The MORPC Team has been increasing communications and promotion of the Clean Ohio Fund to encourage more applications. If you are interested in more information or a presentation, please contact Edwina Teye, eteye@morpc.org.
    - District 3 – Franklin County
        - About $10 million is available for FY 2027. https://www.morpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FY-27_Preliminary-Screener.pdfFinal applications are due on August 28, 2026.
    - District 17 – Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties

- About $3 million is available for FY 2027. Final applications are due on September 18, 2026.

Energy Planning:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) directed its members to attend the Ohio Conference on Freight (OCF) on August 25 and 26, 2026, at the Hilton Columbus Downton in place of a meeting. OCF attendees learned about freight modernization and decarbonization, emerging transportation technologies, and more efficient infrastructure, particularly for the first and last miles of freight transport, potentially improving air quality in those industrial supply chain and logistics communities.

- Next meeting: November 18, 2026, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. This is a hybrid meeting, so please either join in-person at the MORPC office or online via the Teams Link.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC continues with its Central Ohio Charging Smart Cohort, an initiative providing no-cost technical assistance to streamline policies, permitting, and practices that support the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. The cohort held three more meetings focused on education and incentives to promote EV infrastructure (June), utility engagement and AEP Ohio's Public EV rates (July 2026), and how government operations can improve from EV infrastructure policies, procurement strategies, and fleet analyses (August 2026). All communities in the cohort are working toward Charging Smart designation.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

- With the administration role transitioning from the City of Coumbus to MORPC, MORPC has developed a scope of work with its core team partners—the City of Columbus, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and the Ohio State University—to develop the Status Report, the final deliverable of the CPRG Planning grant award. If you'd like more information on or to read the COCAP, please visit the MORPC's COCAP website or email Brian Filiatraut, Senior Energy & Economic Development Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality

Air Quality Alerts

- No Air Quality Alerts were issued between August 1 and August 19, 2026.
- Of note and based on air quality records dating back to 1980, the July 17, 2026, air quality alert – which reached 266 on the EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI), marks the highest AQI value ever recorded in the Columbus region, breaking the previous record of 232 AQI set on October 14, 1999.

US EPA funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project (CLEAN)

- The CLEAN project wrapped up its data collection and community outreach. Along with the final report, a community air monitoring guide has been updated and will be released in conjunction with other educational assets.

Sustainable Cities Fund Project

- Thanks to funding from the Sustainable Cities Project, MORPC is collaborating with two Columbus neighborhoods, American Addition and Driving Park, to install additional air quality sensors and undertake a series of informational presentations through October 2026. This partnership will facilitate deep engagement and data collection in these neighborhoods to better understand the air quality issues these neighborhoods face. Workshops for each neighborhood kicked off in May and will

continue until the project's end in October. MORPC will be ramping up marketing and community education efforts next.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

Dave Dixon, Director of Data Analytics & Strategy Planning – ddixon@morpc.org

Regional Data Roundtable (RDR):

- Commission adopted RDR's updated 2026-2028 Regional Data Agenda during the August meeting. The agenda has been posted on morpc.org. The RDR will meet next on October 13, 2026.
- Regional Data Roundtable Groups typically meet monthly; please find those updates below.

Working Groups & User Groups

- Cybersecurity Working Group
    - The Working Group continues to discuss and understand implications for cybersecurity documentation, confidentiality, and compliance practices, noting that the legislation protects cybersecurity-related information from public records disclosure while still permitting controlled sharing with auditors and law enforcement when necessary. The group also discussed the measures needed to ensure organizational data is managed so that it adheres to NIST guidelines for data mapping and protections. Members noted the importance of minimizing the collection and storage of sensitive data, along with implementing strong data classification and labeling practices within organizational systems to reduce risk and support compliance efforts. Members also discussed risk management practices in response to feedback received from the Ohio Cyber Reserve assessment.
    - The Working Group did not meet in July 2026, but will meet in August 2026.
    - Interested parties who have not already done so should complete an IT/Cybersecurity Working Group Interest Form at the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/fc8qz5y6zh.
- Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group
    - The Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group concluded its work on the CONNECT project and presented greenspace accessibility results to RDR on July 14, 2026. The group plans to reconvene in September to discuss future project recommendations, likely focused on using data to advance planning and decision making around housing opportunity. Staff and members interested in this topic should reach out to Dave Dixon, ddixon@morpc.org.
- Central Ohio GIS User Working Group (COGUG)
    - Next meeting is August 26, 2026, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at MORPC. Interested parties should contact Cheri Mansperger at cmansperger@morpc.org.
- Regional Information & Data User Working Group (RIDG)
    - On August 12, 2026, RIDG hosted a conversation about a Housing and Duplex data project presented by Carlie Boos and Jacob Strang. The agenda summary of the topic: A new report conducted by Scioto Analysis and the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio finds that Central Ohio residents who choose duplex homeownership can earn or save nearly $1.3 million over their lives, making this traditional housing style a powerful pathway for financial freedom. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the results, including the secondary role that "missing middle" housing can play in planning for a sustainable retirement, lowering the cost of higher education, and promoting economic development and workforce readiness. Attendees will also explore a parallel mapping project that assesses Central Ohio's duplex landscape and a community action plan developed by external stakeholders to close preparedness gap.
    - The next RIDG meeting will be on November 4, 2026, at 2:30 pm at the MORPC office with a hybrid-option available. RIDG will host a conversation yet to be determined. Interested parties should contact Ethan Hug at ehug@morpc.org.

Data Management:

- The Data Team continues to pursue improvements to our data infrastructure to allow for efficient storage of data with a large number of features and/or large storage size, including but not limited to the use of SQL databases and data modeling based on star schemas. Due to technology limitations, we are currently constrained to file-based database storage and deployment on local computing resources, however we are exploring the use of abstraction libraries and containerization technologies which would allow us to deploy the systems in the cloud at such a time that this becomes possible.
- The Data Team is developing a specialized database to capture the responses to our Leaders Listen survey series. The database will be structured in such a way that we will be able to easily perform complex queries, compare responses to similar questions across surveys, and capture and report on survey metadata.
- Data & Mapping Team is evaluating licensing options for our public content to better protect MORPC's intellectual property rights and make the content more useable to the public.
- Data Team has identified several previously untapped datasets from which to identify and locate group quarters facilities and is consolidating candidate facilities so that they may considered for potential inclusion in MORPC's master points of interest dataset.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

Data & Research Activities

- Draft county population projections for the years 2025 to 2055 were introduced at the August 2026 Commission meeting, with a Lunch and Learn event following on Thursday, August 20, 2026, for interested parties to learn more. MORPC used a new method in this iteration based on a cohort component model. Three scenarios have been modeled: historically typical migration, historically low migration, and historically high migration. The projections were vetted by select MORPC staff and a team of external subject matter experts.
- Draft January 1, 2026, county/city/village/township population and MORPC Member dues estimates were presented at the August 2026 Commission meeting. A resolution to approve the estimates and dues will be put forth at the September 2026 Commission meeting. MORPC staff are available to consult with Member communities about the estimates until August 27, 2026.
- MORPC Insights
    - Work continues on Insights Phase 2 development. The project will focus on adding content, adding features to allow comparisons between different geographies, and improving the user experience for people with disabilities. We have hired an ArcGIS App Development Intern to help us with this work, funded by a grant from The Columbus Foundation.
    - Work continues to update existing content in MORPC Insights to incorporate the latest available data and refresh the headlines and commentary.
- Staff continue to manage the organization's air quality sensor data. The US EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant recently ended, but work continues through the support of several other grants. The team is developing a database layout and improved scripts for retrieving, standardizing, and validating PurpleAir data. The Team is also developing tools to empower local resident amateurs to easily download and review PurpleAir data.
- Work began on the next iteration of the Leaders Listen Survey Series, which will focus on Transportation. The Team is also transforming select survey responses into a form that will allow them to be presented within the Insights platform.
- Staff responded to several ad hoc data requests, including:
    - Socioeconomic conditions before select economic developments for City of Whitehall
    - Chart of historical and projected population for City of Delaware
    - Guidance about small-area estimates and projections to support the regional water study for southeast Ohio

- Chart comparing factors of population change (natural change and migration) for Columbus and other top MSAs

Mapping Activities

- All major activities this month are related to preparing inputs for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Modeling Activities

- Working on subregion analysis for Fairfield County, the City of Obetz and Grove City
- Seven traffic growth rate requests completed
- Network validation in progress

MTP Activities

- Workflow diagramming continues
- Future land use at parcel level for 10 counties in progress
- Mapping projects
- Creating “No build” layer for 10 county area

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Ralonda Hampton, Senior Director of Communications & Engagement – rhampton@morpc.org

News Releases:

- Competitive Advantage Projects Released – MORPC.org (8/17/26)
- MORPC Honored With Economic Development Award – MORPC.org (7/29/26)

MORPC in the News:

- NextGen Mobiity Projects Showcased In Marysville, Marysville Matters (8/20/26)
- Catching Up With County Commissioners, Delaware Gazette (8/19/26)

Digital Content:

- Air Quality, eSource, Gohio Commute, Trails, Housing, Careers, Residential Services, RFPs/RFQs, Water Quality, MORPC Interns, Economic Development Academy, Summit on Sustainability, Ohio Conference on Freight, Social Media Summit, CORPO, LinkUS, The Big Table, Data Resources, and MORPC News

Performance

- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Top Posts

- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC hosted the Ohio Conference on Freight and featured a resource table of programs and services to offer the attendees.
- C&E attended the Engagement and Access Council meeting hosted by Franklin County.
- C&E attended the LinkUS Communications and Engagement meeting.

Marketing Campaigns:

- Gohio Commute ran boosted social media posts and videos to encourage their audience to sign up and understand the importance of sustainable transportation

Events:

- Accessible Ohio Expo, 8.13.26
- Social Media Summit 8.19.26
- Columbus ArborFest 8.22.26
- Ohio Conference on Freight 8.25.26-8.26.26

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – eleuby@morpc.org

Member Visits Completed

- Marble Cliff 8/5/26
- Completed new board orientations

Events

- Gahanna Civic Center Ribbon Cutting & Dedication 8/25/26; Attended Dublin, Logan County, & Union County COC's Economic Development update 8/27/26.
- Central Ohio Greenways Fellows Studio: completed program 8/14/26 and judges chose Erin Schaefer as the Fellow with distinction to be recognized at the Summit on Sustainability

Internship Update

- Held Intern Celebrations on 8/11/26 & 8/12/16. All 42 interns completed their presentations.

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PLANNING COMMISSION
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Memorandum

TO: Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Mobility & Development Department Staff

DATE: August 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-13-26: **"Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program"**

Proposed Resolution T-13-26 will add or modify two (2) projects on the SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These changes are necessary to enable the projects to advance and to maintain fiscal constraint. In October, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will ask the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to amend the Statewide TIP to include these changes.

Continued maintenance of the TIP is a key element of implementing strategies in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects included in this amendment specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- PRES 2: Repave or reconstruct roads in poor physical condition
- OP 10: Modify existing roadway lane configurations, where appropriate, to improve safety for all users
- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations with an emphasis on eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes
- BP 3: Build safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling
- BP 6: Make neighborhoods walkable and bikeable through infrastructure projects that fill gaps and increase connectivity of safe and comfortable facilities for walking and bicycling
- BP 7: Ensure neighborhoods and activity centers have safe and comfortable connections for walking and bicycling to transit networks
- TRAN 6: Make neighborhoods transit supportive through infrastructure projects
- FRE 1: Improve at-grade rail crossings and close or grade-separate crossings where feasible

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Ben Kessler *Chair*
Laurie Jadwin *Vice Chair*
Matthew Starr *Secretary*

- SYS 1: Collaborate to ensure localized and regional transportation systems needs are addressed in development decisions
- SYS 2: Develop transportation system to serve all demographic population groups

Attachment 1 to the resolution provides a description of the funding and scope of the projects, including a description of the bicycle and pedestrian components.

An explanation of the proposed changes to the TIP follows.

Delaware County Engineer: The following modification to the TIP is being made for a Delaware County project:

- PID 115566, DEL-TR114-1.93 (Orange Road railroad grade separation):
    - **Reason for TIP Amendment**
        - Add right-of-way (RW) phase to active TIP year (SFY 2027) with funding of $2,907,575
    - **Other Changes**
        - Add new funding source (Rail) which includes $3,500,000 in the detailed design (DD) phase and $17,500,000 in the construction (CO) phase
        - Move CO phase from SFY 2027 to SFY 2028
        - Total project cost increase from $62,965,466 to $64,748,041

Franklin County Engineer's Office:

The following modification to the TIP is being made for a Franklin County project:

- PID 123475, FRA-East Cooke Rd Ph 2 (Cooke Road reconstruction):
    - **Reason for TIP Amendment**
        - Add detailed design (DD) phase to active TIP year (SFY 2028) with funding of $250,000
    - **Other Changes**
        - Total project cost increase from $12,176,060 to $12,426,060

Attachment: Proposed Resolution T-13-26

RESOLUTION T-13-26

“Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program”

WHEREAS, the Central Ohio MPO Board of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) adopted the SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Resolution T-6-25; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2026-2029 TIP has been identified as needed for a Delaware County Engineer project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2026-2029 TIP has been identified as needed for a Franklin County Engineer project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, the projects are consistent with the transportation policies, plans, and programs, including the most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) adopted by the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board (formerly known as the Transportation Policy Committee); and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting August 31, 2026, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 2, 2026 recommended approval of this resolution to the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO MPO BOARD OF THE **MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That the MORPC SFY 2026-2029 TIP be amended to include the project information as shown in Attachment 1.

Section 2. That it affirms that the fiscal balance of the SFY 2026-2029 TIP is maintained.

Section 3. That the determination of conformity between the TIP and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is hereby reaffirmed, as both projects are exempt from conformity requirements.

Section 4. That it affirms that the amendment was developed in compliance with the transportation performance measures as described in Section 6 of the SFY 2026-2029 TIP as modified.

Section 5. That this resolution will be transmitted to ODOT and all sponsoring agencies in Attachment 1 for appropriate action.

Section 6. That the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Ben Kessler, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff

Attachment 1: Amended Project Information for the SFY 2026-2029 TIP

Attachment 1

115566 - DEL-TR114-1.93 (Orange Road)

Ref ID: 115566: 26-29 STIP

PID:	Project Name:	Primary Work Category:	Sponsoring Agency:	Air Quality Status:
115566	DEL-TR114-1.93 (Orange Road)	Railroad Grade Separation	Delaware County Engineer	Exempt
ODOT Dist(s):	**Locale(s):**	**MPO(s) / RTPO(s):**	**Performance Measures:**	**List Type:**
06	DEL	MORPC	PHED	Individual

Termini:
ORANGE TWP., DEL TR124 (Home Road) at CSX Railroad crossing

Total Project Estimate:
$64,748,041

Description:
Construct a grade separation of TR114 (Orange Road) and the Norfolk Southern/CSX railroad.
Construction funded by MORPC federal STBG.

TIP Project Comments:
MTP ID: 2105
Bicycle and Pedestrian Components Included: Yes, sidewalk on one side and shared-use path on the other side
Additional Project Information: This project includes a commitment of MORPC-Attributable Funding.

Revision Reason:

Revision Comments:

TIP Phases:

Phase	STIP Fund Type	Prior Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	Future Years	Total	Revision Reason / Comments
DD	Rail	$ -	$ -	$3,500,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$3,500,000	Revise Funding - Amount, Source, and/or Year
Total DD		$ -	$ -	$3,500,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$3,500,000	
RW	Local	$ -	$ -	$2,907,575	$ -	$ -	$ -	$2,907,575	Add Phase
Total RW		$ -	$ -	$2,907,575	$ -	$ -	$ -	$2,907,575	
CO	MPO STBG	$ -	$ -	$ -	$8,387,599	$ -	$ -	$8,387,599	Revise Funding - Amount, Source, and/or Year
	Rail	$ -	$ -	$ -	$17,500,000	$ -	$ -	$17,500,000	
	Labor	$ -	$ -	$ -	$3,268,770	$ -	$ -	$3,268,770	
	Local	$5,000,000	$ -	$ -	$24,184,097	$ -	$ -	$29,184,097	
Total CO		$5,000,000	$ -	$ -	$53,340,466	$ -	$ -	$58,340,466	
Total		$5,000,000	$ -	$6,407,575	$53,340,466	$ -	$ -	$64,748,041	

123475 - FRA-East Cooke Rd Ph 2

Ref ID: 123475: 26-29 STIP

PID:	Project Name:	Primary Work Category:	Sponsoring Agency:	Air Quality Status:
123475	FRA-East Cooke Rd Ph 2	Roadway Major Rehab	Franklin County Engineer	Exempt
ODOT Dist(s):	**Locale(s):**	**MPO(s) / RTPO(s):**	**Performance Measures:**	**List Type:**
06	FRA	MORPC		Individual

Termini:
East Cooke Rd from Glenmawr Ave to Karl Rd

Total Project Estimate:
$12,426,060

Description:
Reconstruct E Cooke Rd from Glenmawr Ave to Karl Rd. Project includes pedestrian safety improvements, storm upgrades and highway lighting.

TIP Project Comments:
MTP ID: 1425
Bicycle and Pedestrian Components Included: Yes, sidewalk on one side and shared-use path on the other side
Additional Project Information: This project includes a commitment of MORPC-Attributable Funding.

Revision Reason:

Revision Comments:

TIP Phases:

Phase	STIP Fund Type	Prior Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	Future Years	Total	Revision Reason / Comments
DD	Discretionary / Earmark	$ -	$ -	$ -	$250,000	$ -	$ -	$250,000	Add Phase
Total DD		$ -	$ -	$ -	$250,000	$ -	$ -	$250,000	
Total		$ -	$ -	$ -	$250,000	$ -	$ -	$250,000	

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Memorandum

TO: Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Mobility & Development Department Staff

DATE: August 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-14-26: **"ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR CENTRAL OHIO CANDIDATE PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 2026 FOR TRAC FUNDING"**

As reported to you previously, six (6) projects were submitted to the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) for the 2026 funding cycle in MORPC's Metropolitan Organization Planning (MPO) area. TRAC is responsible for committing development and construction funding toward projects that meet the criteria of the Major New Capacity Program (generally projects that cost over $12 million and increase roadway capacity and/or reduce congestion). Information sheets (attached) were prepared and posted to our website over the summer with details on the projects.

Resolution T-14-26 establishes MORPC's priorities for the 2026 TRAC funding requests that fall within MORPC's MPO area. Facilitating the development and implementation of these projects is an element of implementing the strategies in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects seeking advancement with TRAC funding specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- OP 4: Apply access management along arterial and collector corridors
- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations
- BP 3: Build safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling
- RDWY 1: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing freeways and at interchanges
- RDWY 3: Construct new interchanges, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional development goals
- RDWY 4: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing congestion that hinders economic activity along existing arterial and collector corridors
- RWDY 6: Construct new roadways, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional or local development goals

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Executive Director

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Vice Chair

Matthew Starr
Secretary

MORPC is accepting comments on the projects from the public, and staff completed an evaluation of the projects. This memo provides a summary of how the projects were evaluated and concludes with a recommendation on project prioritization. The priorities will be presented to TRAC at a regional public hearing this fall, and upon adoption of Resolution T-14-26, submitted in writing by October 1, 2026.

The 2026 TRAC funding cycle for ODOT's Major New Capacity Program is a limited cycle that includes two restrictions: No new project funding requests and no funding requests for Tier I Construction. Additionally, the 2026 TRAC funding cycle is operating on an advanced schedule, with project applications open from late-June to mid-July and a final funding list by mid-December.

Project Evaluation Summary

Due to the restrictions and advanced schedule placed on the 2026 TRAC funding cycle, MORPC's project evaluation process differs from previous cycles. All 2026 application projects have been previously evaluated in prior rounds using the same scoring methodology. As such, these prior evaluation scores were used in the prioritization of projects for the current 2026 funding cycle, with appropriate adjustments made for any new public comments received.

In previous cycles, MORPC staff completed evaluations for each of the six TRAC projects requesting funding in 2026 based on the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. Key elements of the MTP evaluation criteria were used for the evaluation. For the projects being ranked, the current analysis results by goal are:

Adopted Goal: Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.

The criteria for this goal focus on congestion relief and the total number of jobs as well as non-retail jobs within one mile of the facility at present and projected in 2050.
The US 33 Widening (Southeast Corridor) and I-270 at US 33 Interchange (Southeast) projects showed the most significant reductions in congestion. The SR 315 at Lane Avenue project showed the strongest support for non-retail jobs.

Adopted Goal: Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.

The criteria for this goal considered reductions in emissions (VOC and NOx).
No projects showed significant reductions in emissions.

Adopted Goal: Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.

The criteria for this goal considered reduction in regional vehicle-miles traveled.
No projects showed significant reductions in regional vehicle-miles traveled.

Adopted Goal: Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.

The criteria for this goal included the number of communities being served by the project, consideration for collaboration with regards to project development and funding the project, and new development in the area.

The US 33 Widening (Southeast Corridor) and I-270 at US 33 Interchange (Southeast) projects scored highest due to the utilization of non-regional transportation funding.

Adopted Goal: Provide transportation and mobility options to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of all people.

The criteria for this goal considered the safety/crash ranking analysis, pavement and bridge condition, and populations served.

The US 33 Widening (Southeast Corridor), I-270 at US 33 Interchange (Southeast), and SR 315 at Lane Avenue projects scored high because of expected safety improvements for all road users and serving traditionally underserved populations.

Adopted Goal: Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve all residents' quality of life.

The criteria for this goal considered which projects serve users going to or coming from higher density areas and multimodal elements of the project, such as facilities for transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The SR 315 at Lane Avenue project scored highly as it serves the highest density area among projects submitted.

Comments Received from the Public

Comments from the public on this year's TRAC applications are due to MORPC by August 31. Prior to the publication of this memo on August 25, MORPC has received three (3) submissions. Any additional submissions received before the end of the comment period will be discussed and considered, as appropriate, at the Community Advisory Committee meeting on August 31 and the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on September 2.

Two submissions were received in support of the SR 315 at Lane Avenue project, with both noting the project's importance in furthering regional development.

One submission was received requesting MORPC and ODOT to change project delivery requirements. The submission requests that projects have stronger and higher small business enterprise (SBE) participation goals, as well as breaking scopes of services into smaller and more accessible opportunities for SBEs.

MORPC Staff Ranking Recommendation

Based on the goal-by-goal evaluation summarized above and the public comments, MORPC staff recommends the following priority ranking (classified as High, Medium, or Low priorities) for the six applications requesting TRAC funding:

High Priority:	I-270 at US 33 Interchange (Southeast)
High Priority:	US 33 Widening (Southeast Corridor)
Medium Priority:	SR 161 Widening
Medium Priority:	SR 315 at Lane Avenue
Low Priority:	Sunbury Parkway Phase C
Low Priority:	US 23 at Orange Road / Parkway Drive

Resolution T-14-26 recommends these rankings.

Attachment 1: Resolution T-14-26
Attachment 1A: Priorities for the 2026 TRAC Major New Capacity Program Candidate Projects
Attachment 2: 2026 TRAC Application Summaries

RESOLUTION T-14-26

“ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR CENTRAL OHIO CANDIDATE PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 2026 FOR TRAC FUNDING”

WHEREAS, the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) selects major new projects to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT's) major new capacity program; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC has requested that each MPO submit its priorities for projects in that MPO’s planning area; and

WHEREAS, six projects requesting funding have been submitted to MORPC for acknowledgement prior to their submittal to the TRAC (see Attachment 1A); and

WHEREAS, MORPC members and the public were asked to submit comments on the projects; and

WHEREAS, staff provided the Community Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and Central Ohio MPO Board information regarding the applications, including public comments received for staff recommendation; and

WHEREAS, staff evaluated the projects with regard to the six goals of the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and along with public comments developed the attached priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 31, 2026, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 2, 2026, meeting recommended approval to the Central Ohio MPO Board; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO MPO BOARD OF THE **MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That the attached listing of projects (Attachment 1A) be established as the order of priorities for the candidate projects submitted to TRAC from the MORPC MPO area for major new capacity program funding.

Section 2. That the TRAC is strongly discouraged from funding lower priority projects on this list at the expense of higher priority projects.

Section 3. That it directs MORPC staff to forward these priorities to the TRAC and to present the priorities to the TRAC.

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

Ben Kessler, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff
Attachment 1A: Priorities for the 2026 TRAC Major New Capacity Program Candidate Projects

Resolution T-14-26
Attachment 1A

Priorities for the 2026 TRAC Major New Capacity Program Candidate Projects

TRAC Priority	Project	Tier Request	2026 TRAC Funding Request
High	I-270 at US 33 Interchange (Southeast)	Tier II	$15.0M
High	US 33 Widening (Southeast Corridor)	Tier II	$6.0M
Medium	SR 161 Widening	Tier II	$10.0M
Medium	SR 315 at Lane Avenue	Tier II	$4.1M
Low	Sunbury Parkway Phase C	Tier II	$3.0M
Low	US 23 at Orange Road / Parkway Drive	Tier II	$1.0M

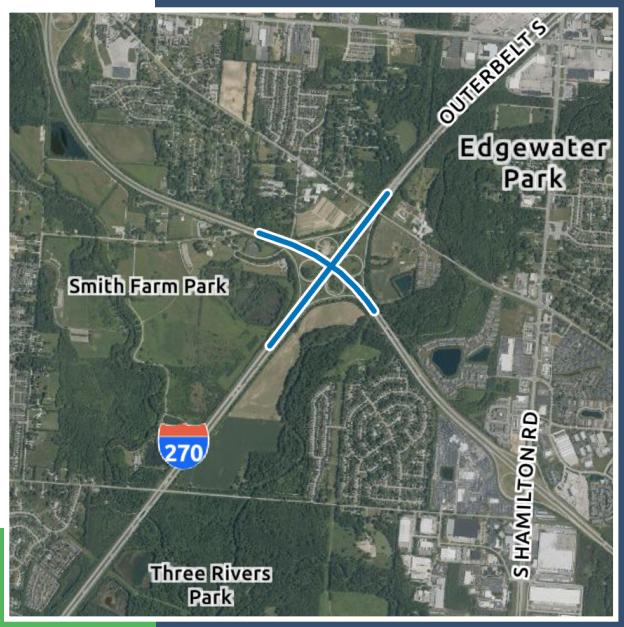
I-270 AT US 33 INTERCHANGE (SOUTHEAST)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project is intended to upgrade the interchange of I-270 and US 33 in southeastern Franklin County to increase mobility and improve safety. These improvements will be phased and this initial phase is for the I-270 southbound to US 33 eastbound movement.

2026 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to remain in Tier II status and $15 million for Detailed Design in state fiscal year 2027.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: FRA-270/33-45.808/24.375

Common Name: I-270 at US-33 Interchange

Sponsor: ODOT District 6

ODOT Project ID: 121812

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: Yes

Total Project Cost: $86 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

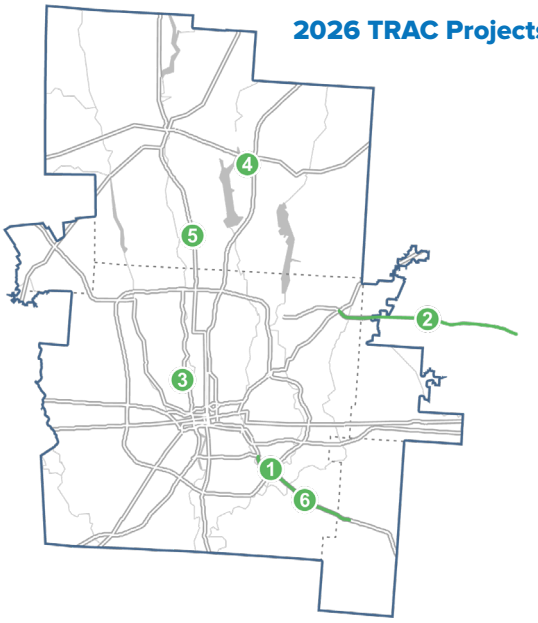
County: Franklin

ODOT District: District 6

Jurisdictions: Columbus

Routes: I-270, US 33

Map Label: 1



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
In Progress
2028-07-01 (est.)

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
Not Started
2028-09-02 (est.)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL
Not Started
2030-05-01 (est.)

DETAILED DESIGN
Not Started
No Estimate

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
Not Started
2032-01-05 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
Not Started
2032-07-01 (est.)

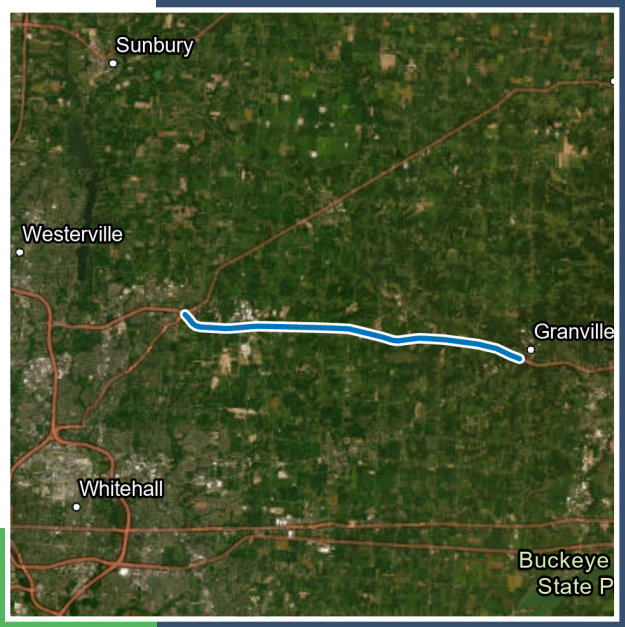
SR 161 WIDENING

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project involves the widening of SR 161 and SR 37 in Franklin and Licking County. Work will include operational improvements to the service interchanges at Beech Road, Mink Street and SR 37. The project is being developed to support expected high intensity use economic development projects in western Licking County.

2026 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 5 is requesting to remain in Tier II status, $6 million for Right-of-Way in state fiscal year 2028, and $4 million for Right-of-Way in state fiscal year 2030.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: FRA/LIC SR 161 22.10/0.00

Common Name: SR 161 Widening

Sponsor: ODOT District 5

ODOT Project ID: 117878

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: No

Total Project Cost: $107.5 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

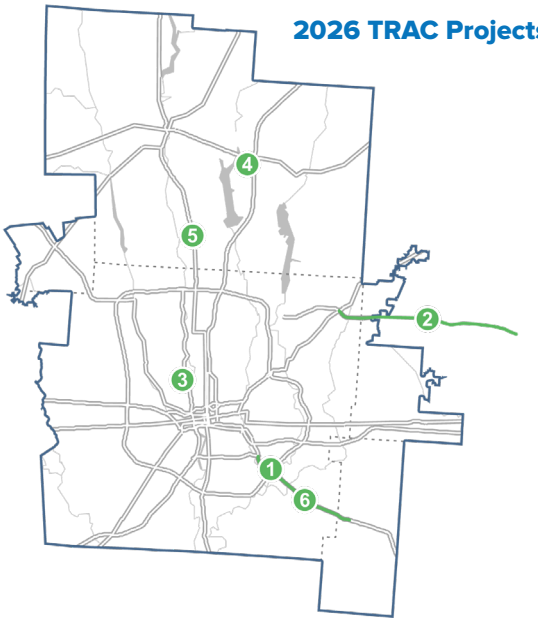
County: Franklin, Licking

ODOT District: District 5

Jurisdictions: New Albany, Jersey Township, Saint Albans Township, Granville Township

Routes: State Route 161, State Route 37, Mink Street

Map Label: 2



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
Complete
2025-10-08

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
In Progress
2026-10-01 (est.)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL
In Progress
2027-02-15 (est.)

DETAILED DESIGN
Not Started
No Estimate

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
Not Started
2028-11-01 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
Not Started
2028-12-01 (est.)

SR 315 AT LANE AVENUE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project supports economic development in and around the Ohio State Innovation District to addresses mobility, system linkage, and access issues created by SR 315's initial construction and area growth. Significant work is expected on SR 315's Lane Avenue interchange and Lane Avenue itself, as well as the associated bridges, signals, intersections, interchanges, and ramps. The PE phase will identify alternatives for an improved interchange configuration and conclude with a preferred configuration that best serves regional jobs growth.

2026 TRAC REQUEST

City of Columbus is requesting to remain in Tier II status and $4.1 million for Detailed Design in state fiscal year 2029.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: FRA SR 315 at Lane Ave

Common Name: SR 315 at Lane Avenue

Sponsor: City of Columbus

ODOT Project ID: 117947

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: Yes

Total Project Cost: $113.9 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

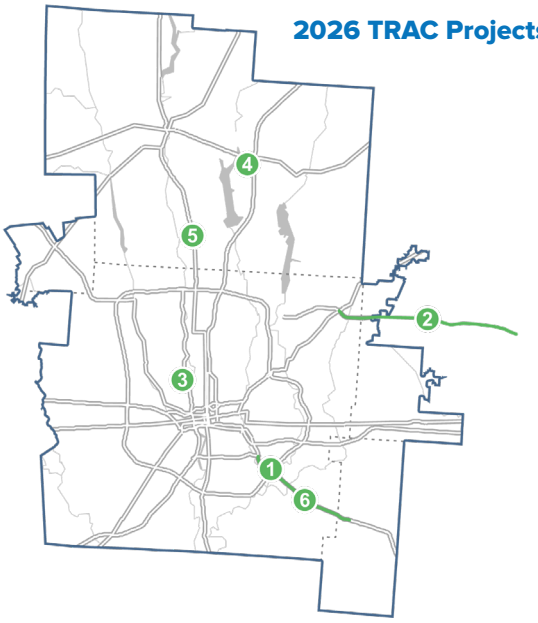
County: Franklin

ODOT District: District 6

Jurisdictions: Columbus, Clinton Township

Routes: SR 315, Lane Avenue, Kenny Road

Map Label: 3



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
In Progress
2027-07-01 (est.)

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
Not Started
2028-05-01 (est.)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL
Not Started
2030-03-01 (est.)

DETAILED DESIGN
Not Started
No Estimate

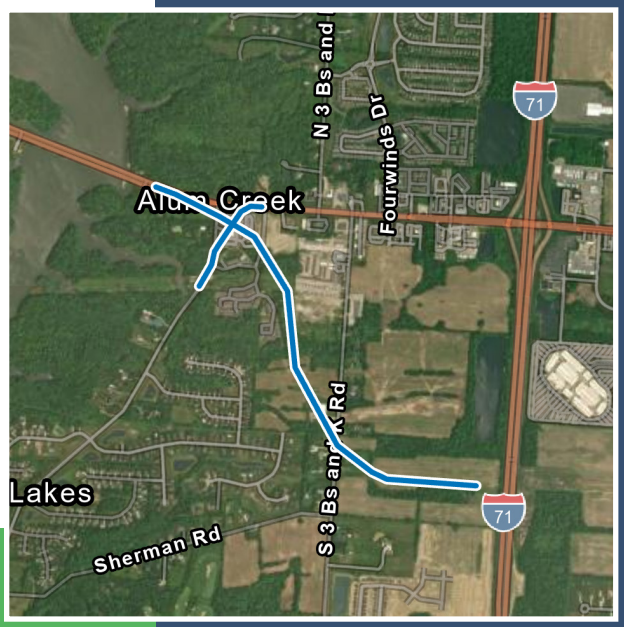
RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
Not Started
2031-12-31 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
Not Started
2031-12-31 (est.)

SUNBURY PARKWAY PHASE C

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project further extends Sunbury Parkway (Phase C) from Phase B at the intersection of South 3 B's & K Road and Sunbury Parkway to the proposed intersection of Africa Road and US36 / SR37 just east of Alum Creek. Project also includes the North-bound on ramp to the Collector Distributer road at the interchange from Sunbury Parkway. The project will enhance capacity and increase mobility of the national highway system in partnership with private economic development.



2026 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to enter into Tier II status and $3 million for Right-of-Way in state fiscal year 2027.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: DEL-Sunbury Parkway (Ph C)

Common Name: I-71 at Sunbury Parkway (Phase C)

Sponsor: ODOT District 6

ODOT Project ID: 106961

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: Yes

Total Project Cost: $42.7 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier III - Development & Multi-Phase Projects

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

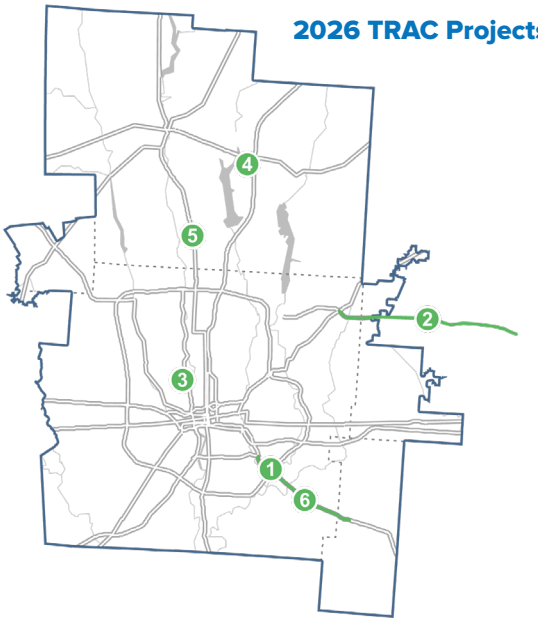
County: Delaware

ODOT District: District 6

Jurisdictions: Sunbury, Berlin Township

Routes: Interstate 71, State Route 37, Africa Road, 3 Bs and K Road, Sunbury Road (New Roadway)

Map Label: 4



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
Complete
2017-06-20

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
Complete
2025-01-13

ENVIRONMENTAL / NEPA APPROVAL
Complete
2017-07-01

DETAILED DESIGN
In Progress
2026-12-30 (est.)

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
In Progress
2028-01-14 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
In Progress
2028-01-14 (est.)

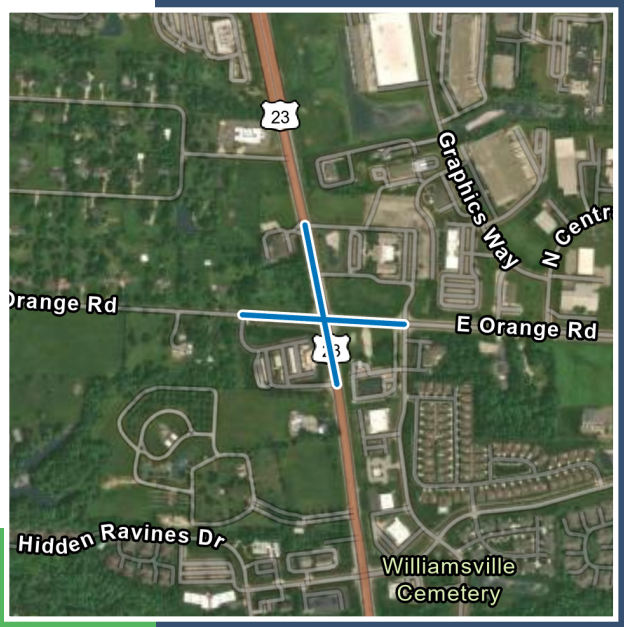
US 23 AT ORANGE ROAD / PARKWAY DRIVE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project would purchase advance right-of-way at the US 23/ Orange Road intersection for future roadway improvements to the corridor. The project was identified in the Route 23 Connect study.

2026 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to enter into Tier II status and $1 million for Right-of-Way in state fiscal year 2028.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: DEL-23 at Orange Rd & Parkway Dr

Common Name: US 23 at Orange Road / Parkway Drive

Sponsor: ODOT District 6

ODOT Project ID: 124219

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: Yes

Total Project Cost: $66 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

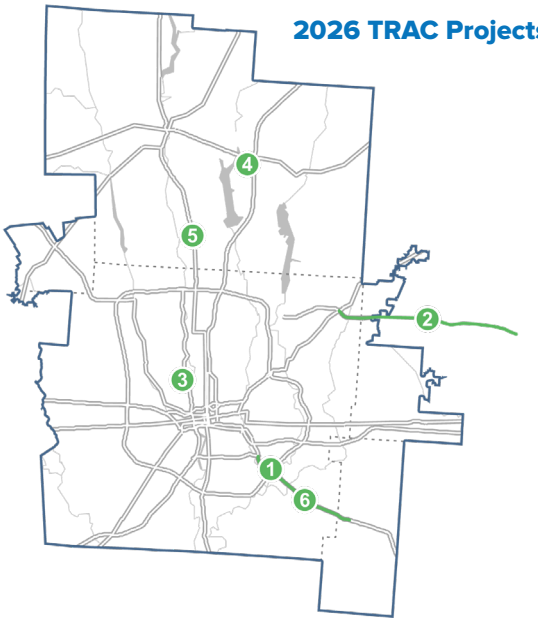
County: Delaware

ODOT District: District 6

Jurisdictions: Granville Township

Routes: US 23, Orange Road

Map Label: 5



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
In Progress
2030-01-01 (est.)

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
Not Started
2030-01-01 (est.)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL
Not Started
2031-01-01 (est.)

DETAILED DESIGN
Not Started
No Estimate

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
Not Started
2029-01-01 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
Not Started
2032-01-01 (est.)

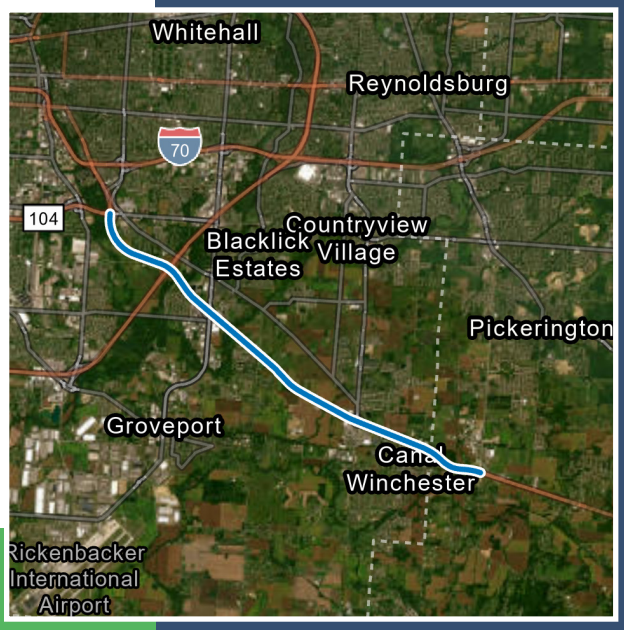
US 33 WIDENING (SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project is intended to widen US 33 from 2 to 3 lanes in each direction from SR-674 (Gender Road) in Franklin County to TR-207 (Diley Road) in Fairfield County.

2026 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to enter into Tier II status, $5 million for Preliminary Engineering in state fiscal year 2027, and $1 million for Detailed Design in state fiscal year 2029.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: FRA/FAI-33-30.09/0.00

Common Name: US 33 Widening (Southeast Corridor)

Sponsor: ODOT District 6

ODOT Project ID: 124117

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: Yes

Total Project Cost: $40.7 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier III - Development & Multi-Phase Projects

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

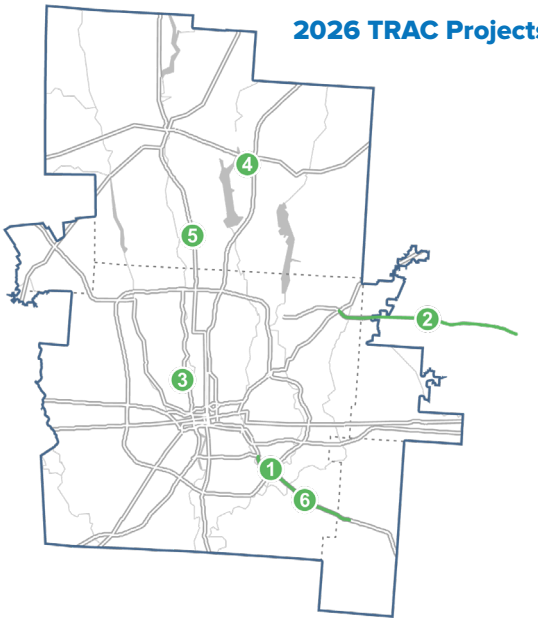
County: Franklin, Fairfield

ODOT District: District 6

Jurisdictions: Columbus, Groveport, Canal Winchester, Violet Twp, Madison Twp., Truro Twp.

Routes: US 33

Map Label: 6



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
Complete
2025-07-23

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
Not Required

ENVIRONMENTAL / NEPA APPROVAL
Complete
2025-04-24

DETAILED DESIGN
Not Started
No Estimate

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
Not Started
2029-04-01 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
Not Started
2029-07-01 (est.)

MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

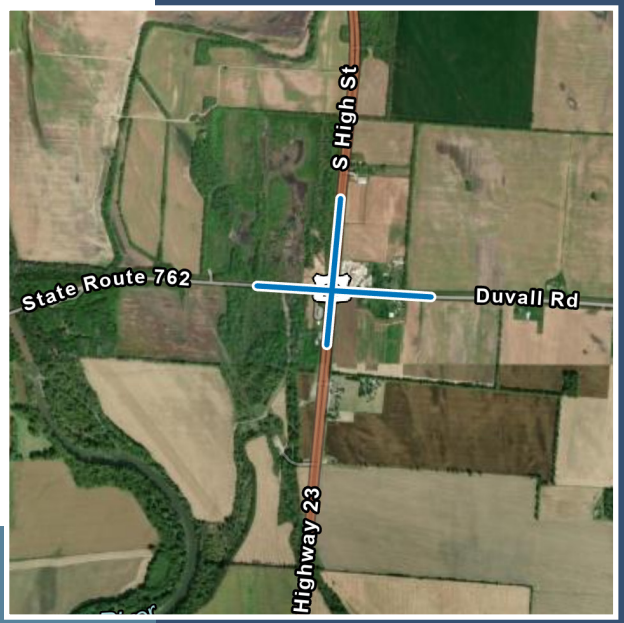
US 23 AT SR 762 INTERCHANGE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project will complete the development-driven improvements and master plan envisioned for the Rickenbacker East-West Connector by converting the existing intersection into a full interchange.

2026 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to remain in Tier II status and $7 million for Right-of-Way in state fiscal year 2027.



PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: PIC-23-20.609

Common Name: US 23 at 762 Interchange

Sponsor: ODOT District 6

ODOT Project ID: 115425

MORPC MTP Project: Yes

Competitive Advantage Project: No

Total Project Cost: $83.1 million

Current TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

Requested TRAC Status: Tier II - Development

PROJECT LOCATION

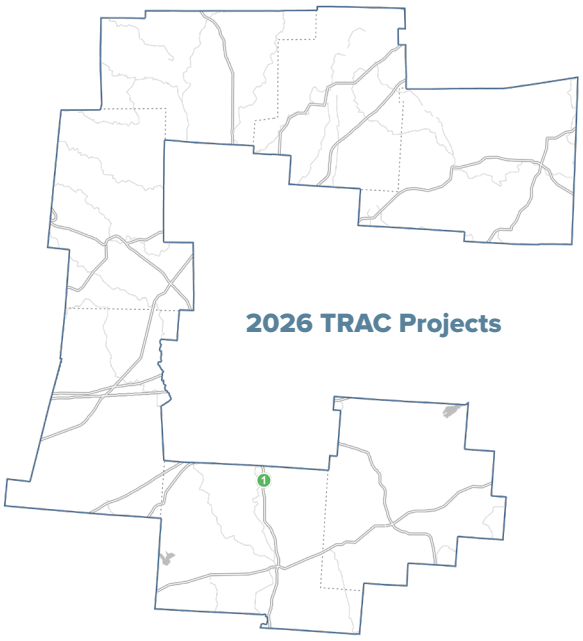
County: Pickaway

ODOT District: District 6

Jurisdictions: Harrison Township

Routes: US 23, SR 762

Map Label: 1



PROJECT SCHEDULE

PLANNING STUDIES
Complete
2020-05-01

INTERCHANGE STUDIES
Complete
2025-06-15

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
Complete
2025-09-04

ENVIRONMENTAL / NEPA APPROVAL
In Progress
2027-06-01 (est.)

DETAILED DESIGN
Not Started
2028-05-19 (est.)

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION
Not Started
2029-09-14 (est.)

UTILITY RELOCATION
Not Started
2029-08-24 (est.)

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION
111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: MORPC MPO Board
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Mobility & Development Department Staff

DATE: August 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-15-26: **"Supporting the Ohio Department of Transportation's Targets for Federal Performance Measures"**

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus Urbanized area, MORPC is required to participate in the federal Transportation Performance Management Program. The program is defined by a series of rulemakings that delineate a process in which MPO's and State Departments of Transportation coordinate on target-setting and reporting for a series of federal transportation performance measures.

As part of this process, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is required to establish statewide targets for the transportation performance measures identified within those regulations. MORPC, as the MPO, is required to either adopt the statewide targets, or may develop our own measures specific to our region.

Resolution T-15-26 is specifically to support the ODOT statewide annual safety targets and the targets established by ODOT for the 2026-2029 federal performance period, as shown in the resolution attachment. MORPC staff finds these targets to be consistent with current regional performance measures and targets, reflective of regional investment strategies, and reasonable based on recent trends and benchmarks.

Additionally, MORPC adopts the regional targets for Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED), Non-Single Ocuppancy vehicle travel, and the Columbus Urbanized area Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) emissions reductions as outined in the attachment.

These federal performance measures and targets will be incorporated into the development of the 2028-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which is currently underway. These measures

William Murdock, AICP *Executive Director*
Ben Kessler *Chair*
Laurie Jadwin *Vice Chair*
Matthew Starr *Secretary*

will be included in addition to other regional performance measures and targets established as part of the MTP development process. Regional performance measures will be recommended for adoption by a separate resolution in coming months.

Attached: T-15-26 Attachment, T-15-26 Support for ODOT Federal Performance Targets

RESOLUTION T-15-26

"SUPPORTING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S TARGETS FOR FEDERAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES"

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) by the governor acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and in cooperation with locally elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is the federal transportation legislation with which MORPC's transportation planning must comply including performance measures which were originally included in MAP-21; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation has established transportation performance management rules and processes to be incorporated into metropolitan transportation planning, which includes state and MPO adoption of certain performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the performance management rules require the state to develop Full Performance Reports every four years which provide updated baseline information and two- and four- year targets for certain performance measures in the area of infrastructure condition, and congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has established updated targets for the federally required performance measures as shown in the Attachment to be included in their 2026 Full Performance Report; and

WHEREAS, MPO's are required to support the state targets or establish their own; and

WHEREAS, MORPC has been incorporating performance measures with targets into the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTP) since 2012; and

WHEREAS, the current 2024-2050 MTP includes a variety of performance measures with short and long range targets, including the federal performance measures, with targets consistent with or more aggressive than those established by ODOT; and

WHEREAS, MORPC is developing the 2028-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the MPO area and will incorporate these performance measures and additional regional performance measures and targets; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 31, 2026, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 2, 2026, meeting recommended approval to the Central Ohio MPO Board; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO MPO BOARD OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Section 1. That it supports ODOT's annual safety and two-year and four-year targets for the federal performance measures as shown in the Attachment and will plan and program projects that contribute towards the achievement of the ODOT targets.

Section 2. That it directs staff to monitor rule-making guidance from the U.S. Department of Transportation and ODOT with regard to performance measurement requirements.

Section 3: That it directs staff to reflect the ODOT targets into the 2028-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan performance measures and the MTP's short- and long-range targets.

Section 4: That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of

this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

_____
Ben Kessler, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

_____
Date

Prepared by: Mobility and Development Department Staff

Attachment: Federal Performance Measures and ODOT 2026-2029 Targets

Resolution T-15-26 Attachment:
Federal Performance Measures and ODOT 2027-2029 Targets

Federal Infrastructure Condition Performance Measures

After the safety performance measures (adopted previously), the second set of federal performance measures established was for infrastructure condition. These are often referred to as PM2 measures. There are 6 different measures as shown in the table below. Unlike the safety targets which apply to the entire roadway system, the PM2 measures apply only to the Interstate and National Highway System roadways. The ODOT 2- and 4-year targets are shown in the table below.

Infrastructure Condition Targets (PM2)		
Measure	2027 statewide 2 Year Target	2029 statewide 4 year Target
% Interstate Pavement: Good	>55%	> 55%
% Interstate Pavement: Poor	<1%	< 1%
% Non-Interstate NHS Pavement: Good	> 40%	> 40%
% Non-Interstate NHS Pavement: Poor	< 3%	< 3%
% NHS Bridges: Good	> 55%	> 55%
% NHS Bridges: Poor	< 3%	< 3%

Federal Congestion Reduction Performance Measures

The third set of federal performance measures established was around congestion. These are often referred to as PM3 measures. There are 8 different measures divided into three groupings as shown in the table below. The first category is around reliability with three measures related to Interstate and NHS system reliability for of travel time for persons and truck travel. The second category are estimates of statewide emissions benefit attributable to Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The third category is specific to each MPO over 200,000 in population and includes two measures. The targets for each are shown in the table below.

Travel Time Reliability Targets (PM3)		
Measure	2027 statewide 2 Year Target	2029 Statewide 4 year Target
% of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable	> 85%	> 85%
% of Person-Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable	>80%	> 80%
Level of Truck Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR)	< 1.50	< 1.50
Total CMAQ Emission Reduction Targets (PM3)		
Measure	2027 statewide 2-Year Target	2029 Statewide 4-year Target
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Total Emission Reduction	> 7.435 kg/day	> 14.870 kg/day
Nitrous Oxide (NOx) Total Emission Reduction	> 68.000 kg/day	> 136.000 kg/day
Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) Total Emission Reduction	> 60.000 kg/day	> 126.000 kg/day
Regional CMAQ Emission Reduction Targets (PM3)		
Measure	2027 Target 2 Year	2029 Target 4 Year
MORPC VOC (kg/day)	36.26	70.80
MORPC NOx (kg/day)	37.54	76.14
MORPC PM2.5 (kg/day)	2.49	4.33
LCATS VOC (kg/day)	0.01	0.03
LCATS NOx (kg/day)	0.01	0.01

LCATS PM2.5 (kg/day)	0.00	0.00

PHED and Non-SOV Travel Targets (PM3)

Measure (Columbus urbanized area)	2027 Target 2 Year	2029 Target 4 Year
Person Hours of Excessive Delay (PHED)	< 10.0 hr/yr	< 10.0 hr/yr
Non-SOV Travel	> 19.5%	> 20.0%

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Memorandum

TO:	Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board Transportation Advisory Committee Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director
DATE:	August 26, 2026
SUBJECT:	Proposed Resolution T-16-26: **"Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2026"**

Annually, MORPC is required to submit a report to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) describing the work completed with federal planning funds provided to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process, as defined by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026, the use of these funds was outlined in the SFY 2026 Planning Work Program (PWP) adopted by Resolution T-8-25. The PWP serves as the scope of work, the schedule, and the budget for the federally funded planning activities.

The PWP included such activities as development of the SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), continued delivery of projects using MORPC MPO funds with an update of policies managing MORPC MPO funds, maintenance of the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), collaboration on major regional initiatives related to greenways and housing, assistance on freeway and arterial studies, support for safety and operations and management of the transportation system, and support for transit, bike, and pedestrian planning.

The SFY 2026 PWP also included the continuation of ridesharing and transportation demand management and air quality awareness activities. MORPC also completed the selection process for FTA Section 5310 funding, continued the Regional Data Advisory Committee, continued outreach and developed resources like the technical assistance program, collaborated to advance intercity passenger rail, continued the LinkUs initiative with other regional partners, most significantly with the transit supportive infrastructure (TSI) component, and other projects and activities that have been presented over the state fiscal year.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Ben Kessler
Chair

Laurie Jadwin
Vice Chair

Matthew Starr
Secretary

A summary of the PWP activities is included as an attachment to the resolution. A full report is available upon request. Resolution T-16-26 approves the completion report and requires that it be forwarded to ODOT.

Attachment: Resolution T-16-26

RESOLUTION T-16-26

"ACCEPTING THE PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION REPORT FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026"

WHEREAS, it is the role of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to help encourage, facilitate, and provide a forum for regional, cooperative transportation planning and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Work Program (PWP) is the document that outlines the work of the MPO, the use of regional transportation planning funds and the regional planning activities that will be conducted each state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board adopted the SFY 2026 Planning Work Program (PWP) by Resolution T-8-25; and

WHEREAS, the activities described in the PWP have been completed or carried over into SFY 2027 and reported in the PWP Completion Report, a summary of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, major products of the PWP have been presented previously; and

WHEREAS, these products include the core work with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the continued delivery of projects using MORPC MPO funds, as well as regional initiatives such as greenways and housing, supporting freeway and arterial studies, local traffic forecasting and continuing updates to the travel demand model, maintaining data to support modeling and planning needs, support for transit planning and ODOT planning studies, ITS, ridesharing/demand reduction, bike and pedestrian planning, safety planning and air quality awareness; and

WHEREAS, ODOT requires approval of this PWP Completion Report by the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board as the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee at its September 2, 2026 meeting recommended approval to the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANZATION BOARD OF THE **MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board approves the PWP Completion Report for SFY 2026.

Section 2. That this resolution and the PWP Completion Report be forwarded to the Ohio Department of Transportation for appropriate action.

Section 3. That the Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of the committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

_____

Ben Kessler, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

_____

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff
Attachment: Summary of Completion Report for the SFY 2026 Planning Work Program

Summary
FISCAL YEAR 2026 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION

I. Formula Funded Planning Program Activities

Total Budget: $4,178,726

Balance Remaining for SFY 2027 or later is: $35,686

Work Element Report Summary

60126-3000 - Management & Operations Planning

Budget: $302,500

Spent through 6/30: $285,786

The Central Ohio ITS committee met quarterly to coordinate and provide updates on ITS related projects including traffic signal camera deployment, transit signal priority, real-time truck parking availability, and other regional projects. MORPC held its first Mobility Exchange event in June which brought international experts on ITS together for panel discussions on connected and autonomous vehicles, new technologies for transit, and safety related technologies.

60136-3000 - Safety Planning

Budget: $145,000

Spent through 6/30: $97,475

MORPC innovated its crash data analysis and reporting activities, which included ongoing maintenance of a 10-County crash dashboard, and led regional safety education efforts, such as hosting the annual Safe Streets Central Ohio this year within the Mobility Exchange event to a larger audience. Staff assisted with local plan development, safety evaluations for projects and funding applications, and support materials for various state and federal discretionary grant programs. MORPC continued to represent OARC on statewide safety committees, such as the SHSP Committee and TRCC Technical Council, participated in the OARC Transportation Safety Subcommittee, and consistently participated in local safety committees, such as the Safe Communities Coalitions and the Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board. Staff also conducted safety analyses as part of comprehensive project evaluation processes for funding programs, including OPWC, and engaged in several regional and state safety efforts, such as ODOT's Walk. Bike. Ohio. 2.0 Plan.

60156-3000 - Transit and Human Services Planning

Budget: $125,000

Spent through 6/30: $108,443

MORPC carried out transit planning coordination, assistance, and oversight to improve transit services and workforce mobility that met Metropolitan Transportation Plan strategies.

Administration, oversight, and the rewrite of the Regional Mobility Plan were completed by the Mobility Coordinator. The Mobility Coordinator held quarterly Central Ohio Mobility Managers Working Group meetings as well as the Region 6 Mobility Managers Steering Committee.

Regional transit provider coordination continued on a quarterly basis with the involvement of all transit agencies, mobility managers, and service providers in the ODOT Region 6 HSTC and the CORPO boundaries. Staff also participated in several initiatives regarding workforce mobility.

60206-3000 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Implementation

Budget: $380,000

Spent through 6/30: $362,686

Revisions to the SFY 2026-2029 TIP were coordinated with ODOT and local agencies by reviewing the monthly S/TIP Revision Report. Staff approved administrative modifications weekly and prepared seven amendment resolutions, which were approved by the Community Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and MPO Board.

Regarding MORPC MPO Funds, MORPC solicited commitment updates which were due on July 10, 2026 and new screening applications for funding which were due on July 17, 2026. For SFY 2026, approximately $16 million of MPO Funds were encumbered for use on transportation projects and programs in the region.

Federally funded projects were coordinated with local agencies, ODOT, and the Ohio Public Works Commission. ODOT District staff held quarterly meetings with local sponsoring agencies, their consultants, and MORPC staff to monitor project development and address any issues. Monthly reports on the status of the MORPC MPO Funding projects were provided to the TAC. MORPC reviewed engineering plans for projects utilizing MPO Funds to ensure compliance with its Complete Streets Policy.

In July and August 2025, MORPC evaluated and prioritized 11 applications to TRAC for Major New Capacity Program funding that were submitted in the 2025 cycle. Resolution T-12-25 established the regional priorities for candidate projects for TRAC funding and was adopted in September of 2025 and transmitted to ODOT. MORPC staff presented the priority list to TRAC and ODOT staff at the Central Ohio regional hearing in September of 2025. Awards were announced April 23, 2026, with four projects receiving at least a portion of their request.

ODOT accepted TRAC applications for the 2026 cycle in July. Six projects were submitted in the MORPC area. Project fact sheets were prepared, and a public comment period began in August to solicit comments on the MPO prioritization of the projects.

60516-2000 - Manage, Map, Collect, and Share Data

Budget: $520,000

Spent through 6/30: $516,233

MORPC continued its role as a leader in convening and collaborating with data professionals, planners, and other stakeholders throughout the Central Ohio Region. MORPC continued its operational objectives aimed at improving the acquisition, maintenance, and ultimate use of its internal and publicly hosted data sets and systems, including the continuation of its Leaders Listen public opinion polling. The poll this year was on Sustainability.

Good stewardship of existing data sets through regularized updates and organization was a key objective. MORPC sought to better utilize existing technologies for collecting, maintaining, and sharing data that support transportation and community-based planning, and to grow partnerships in the region that bring expertly curated data and insights to expanded decision-making contexts.

Through the Regional Data Roundtable (RDR), RIDG, and COGUG user groups; partnerships with organizations such as ODOT, OGRIP, NNIP, Ohio EPA, Franklin County Public Health, The Columbus Dispatch, and College and University Partners; and initiatives such as the Data Day conference, Metro Lab Research to Implementation workshop and the Leaders Listen survey series, MORPC advanced new research and used data to inform and better align efforts.

Stand out efforts this year include working with locals to collect current data for the creation of the Columbus Metro Bike Map, which includes road scores for bicyclists and getting the MTP Land use model underway, collecting existing and future land use data at parcel level, as well as updating other model input data.

Members of the community of GIS and data professionals inspired each other and continued to strive toward shared visions of a better future for all Central Ohio residents.

The team also made significant progress advancing the data maturity of our organization including improvements to metadata capture and utilization, source code modularity and reuse, code and data versioning, and digital accessibility. Some of these advancements are available to the public in the form of two software libraries (morpc-py and morpc-census) published in the Python Package Index.

Significant work was expended to update and expand the data available through the MORPC Insights Platform. Completion of Phase II (of III) of this work is expected in SFY 2027.

60526-2000 - Data Analytics and Research for Transportation Projects and Programs

Budget: $535,000

Spent through 6/30: $630,006

MORPC provided GIS and data analytics services to support the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. MORPC also provided technical assistance in ongoing support for community stakeholders seeking guidance and feedback for a wide variety of purposes.

Notably, in SFY 2026, MORPC began developing a formal project plan for MTP-related data work (implemented in Microsoft Planner) which captures task, dependencies, schedule details, and labor requirements to streamline future MTPs. Significant effort was invested in developing county-level projections (i.e. "county controls") for several variables spanning the years 2025 to 2055. The projections will be completed early in SFY 2027.

MORPC continued to update, expand, and make data publicly available through its Mid-Ohio Open Data site and MORPC Insights platform, as well as through a variety of other data products and reports. Significant effort was expended on Phase II of Insights platform development, which is focused on comparing data for various geographies, capturing insights provided by external partners, and improving the usability and digital accessibility of the tool. Phase II development will be completed in SFY 2027.

MORPC serviced over 54 ad-hoc requests for data, insights, and GIS resources from member communities, partners, and frequently also from non-affiliated organizations and individuals in the government, nonprofit, and academic sectors through a variety of channels.

60556-3000 - Transportation Systems Analysis Techniques and Applications

Budget: $510,000

Spent through 6/30: $481,573

MORPC continued to refine the 3C regional travel demand model and used it for numerous planning and area studies. The model was used to fulfill many requests for traffic growth rates and related activities during the year.

As part of the Get Ready project, MORPC worked with consultants to expand the TAZ, MAZ and network to 10 counties. These geographies will be used for the 2028 MTP, which also involves updating the land use model and its criteria that feed the travel demand model.

MORPC updated baseline data on population, demographics, housing, jobs and employment in support of the update to the 11-County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Finally, MORPC provided technical support and analysis for USEPA CLEAN air quality monitoring project, reporting on particulate matter (PM 2.5) in Franklin County and updated use model inputs in preparation for creating forecasts as part of the 2028 MTP.

61016-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning

Budget: $430,000

Spent through 6/30: $432,867

The MTP was monitored and implemented by ensuring applications for MORPC Attributable Funds, OPWC, and other infrastructure funding and technical assistance programs were evaluated in congruence with adopted MTP goals. Data was developed and compiled for the MTP Report Card and compliance with the Federal Performance Managment rules was completed, including passage of the annual resolution supporting ODOT's Safety Targets.

Work began on the major update of the Regional Active Transportation Plan including scope development, stakeholder and steering committee identification, and an engagement plan was also identified. The development of the plan will continue over the next fiscal year.

Coordination with ODOT's Access Ohio, Walk.Bike.Ohio, Transport Ohio, STDA, Rt 23 and other major corridor studies. MORPC provided modeling and technical support for several areas of study such as SR-315 North Knot, I-70/Bixby Interchange, and many others.

MORPC convened the Central Ohio Passsenger Rail Advisory Council and continued working with partners to advance passenger rail corridor connections.

MORPC facilitated the review and update to the Federal Functional Classification system in central Ohio. Final proposed revisions were submitted to ODOT in Fall 2025.

MORPC coordinated with COTA, City of Columbus, and other regional partners on the delivery of the LinkUS Bus Rapid Transit corridors and transit supportive infrastructure, and provided technical support to the Cities of Delaware and Grove City to assist in the development of local thoroughfare plans, provided technical support to Fairfield County on a corridor study, and supported several other local planning activities.

61026-0400 - Transportation Public Involvement

Budget: $165,000

Spent through 6/30: $146,033

Maintained and implemented MORPC’s public participation process and conducted outreach, engagement, education, and public comment activities supporting the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Active Transportation Plan, and other transportation initiatives. Activities used meetings, presentations, open houses, community events, newsletters, media, social media, web content, printed materials, and other project-specific communication strategies to engage local governments, stakeholders, and the public in transportation planning and decision-making.

61036-1000 - Regional Strategic Initiatives

Budget: $425,000

Spent through 6/30: $411,459

MORPC advanced Insight2050 by supporting local governments in addressing housing needs and improving mobility through a multimodal transportation system. Building on its Regional Housing Strategy, MORPC continued to identify barriers and solutions, engaged with members, and participated in national housing discussions. The latest Leaders Listen survey gathered residents' views on housing and transportation, guiding regional efforts to align housing and public transit with Central Ohio's growth. Further, MORPC helped advance regional housing planning by assisting a working group to establish the Regional Housing Coalition.

MORPC furthered the Central Ohio Greenways Vision by aiding in the planning and funding of Greenways trails and multi-use paths and contributed to the LinkUS TSI 5-year plan for over 100 miles of new trails, sidewalks, and bikeways. This effort also supported local government funding commitments for bicycle and pedestrian projects and involved ongoing trail studies and plan reviews. The updated COG Strategy Plan included projects for wayfinding, trail towns, and environmental conservation. The Trail Towns of Central Ohio Program was also launched by MORPC in January of 2026 which aims to help local communities connect to regional paths, boost active transportation, and draw trail tourism.

In river corridor planning, MORPC led the Central Ohio Blueways program, which mapped waterways and public access points and guided program priorities through the Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee. Additionally, MORPC continued work on the Greenways Planning Studio to support partners focusing on data management and regional collaboration to build the largest interconnected parks district in the U.S.

62516-1000 - Planning Coordination and Support

Budget: $210,000

Spent through 6/30: $210,293

MORPC continued to strengthen local government and partner awareness and knowledge of active transportation and compact development concepts, including Complete Streets and bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity, through data storytelling presentations, interactive workshops, and media. MORPC also hosted informational meetings with local governments and other agencies, stakeholders, and community organizations on these and other topics related to community development and the transportation network.

To support the connectivity of the regional active transportation and trail network, MORPC facilitated meetings among neighboring jurisdictions to encourage collaboration on existing projects and to discuss and plan for potential future infrastructure projects.

62526-1000 - Member Assistance and Support

Budget: $277,500

Spent through 6/30: $321,651

In the fall of 2023, MORPC launched the Community-Based Planning Assistance (CBPA) programs, including the Consultant Services and Planner Pool Programs, aimed at supporting local government members and community Planning Commissions with technical and educational resources. The Consultant Services Program prequalified over 40 consultants in planning and zoning activities and helped communities with consultant RFP processes. Over the past year, we expanded services we pre-qualify consultants for to include activities like feasibility studies. The Planner Pool Program addressed various project needs ranging from supplemental design guides to zoning review support. Additionally, MORPC staff held a Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) session.

MORPC, alongside The Columbus Dispatch and Measurement Resources Company, surveyed nearly 2,000 Central Ohio residents on the topic of sustainability, capturing diverse responses from urban, suburban, and rural areas. This survey provided valuable insights into topics even beyond sustainability, including transportation, regional housing and planning needs.

Additionally, MORPC worked with Cultivate Geospatial to create a tool for analyzing active transportation networks, assessing walking and biking access, and evaluating the Heritage Rail Trail extension. The Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy supported improved walkability and bikeability, while MORPC continued to assist local governments with best practices in active transportation planning. Also, in January 2026 MORPC launched our Trail Towns of Central Ohio Program with a cohort of communities committed to advancing trail planning in their communities.

69716-3000 - Program Administration

Budget: $153,726

Spent through 6/30: $138,535

The MPO transportation committees met throughout the year. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and Metropolitan Planning Organization Board (MPO Board) each held eight meetings. The 2025 PWP Completion Report and SFY 2027 PWP were prepared. No Title VI complaints were received during the fiscal year.

II. Special Studies

Total Budget: $10,084,844

Balance Remaining for SFY 2027 or later is: $7,353,477.56

Work Element Report Summary

66505-1000 - Regional Bicycling Guide (SFY 2026)

Budget: $325,000

Spent through 6/30: $325,000

The project has been completed. All consultant work associated with the project has been completed. 60,000 printed maps have been delivered to MORPC for MORPC to destribute to the region. A digital Story Map template has been completed and is being utilized by five trail town communities.

66506-3000 - US-23 Active Transportation Study (SFY 2026)

Budget: $136,400

Spent through 6/30: $118,318

The US-23 Active Transportation Plan process has concluded, and MORPC has completed all scoped final deliverables.

66515-3000 - Prioritization Process Pilot Program (SFY 2026)

Budget: $1,400,000

Spent through 6/30: $109,738 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

MORPC executed a grant agreement for the Building Equitable and Safe Transportation (BEST) initiative in March of 2026. During the remaining of SFY 2026 MORPC began a procurement process for selection of a consultant to assist with this initiative. MORPC received 8 proposals in response to an RFP posted in April, and after an evaluation process ICF was selected for this project. As of the end of SFY 26 MORPC was in the process of contracting with ICF and preparing to kick off the project.

66534-3000 - Growth and Major Economic Development Planning (SFY 2026)

Budget: $1,000,000

Spent through 6/30: $777,397 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

Work continued on the Get Ready Initiative, through the convening of the 40-minute stakeholder group, completing the expansion and validation of the regional travel demand model to cover a 10-county area, the update of local future land use policies, and development of a model comprehensive plan.

The 40-minutes stakeholder group met in October 2025 and February 2026.

MORPC worked with WSP on expanding the highway networks to the 10-county area, developing a new transit line file, and updated zsed files to incorporate the new land use policies collected within the study area.

MORPC also worked with the consultant to choose a community within the study area that was interested in and would benefit from a new Comprehensive Plan. The intent is that this Comprehensive Plan will be able to be used as a template for other communities in the study area needing to update their own plans due to the growth and development trends in the area. Bloom Township in Fairfield County was selected through a competitive solicitation and application process. The consultant team developed a scope, timeline, and engagement plan and carried it out, developing a Model Comprehensive Plan. MORPC and the consultant team also hosted a workshop in June 2026 for local municipalities to learn about the process and how to use the model plan.

66566-3000 - Regional Supplemental Planning

Budget: $1,775,000

Spent through 6/30: $659,136 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

1. See 60206-2000 for activities related to regional data sets.

2. Working with external subject matter experts, MORPC completed and published a set of model job quality standards for the region. This satisfies an objective laid out in the Regional Data Agenda.

3. See 60526-2000 for activities related to regional data sets.

4. MORPC provided planning data and travel demand model forecasting support for several local and regional planning activities including: Cities of Delaware and Grove City Thoroughfare Plans, Fairfield County's US-33 to I-70 Corridor Study, and many other smaller requests.

5. The Central Ohio Passenger Rail Advisory council convened in December 2025 and April 2026. MORPC continued to engage with statehouse leaders, peer agencies, and other advocates to elevate passenger rail planning capacity at the state and federal levels. MORPC continues to provide technical support to member communities interested in integrating potential passenger rail service with their local plans and development priorities.

6. MORPC facilitated the Regional Water Advisory Council in developing a Strategic Framework to align common regional priorities. One of those ongoing priorities is to address climate impacts on infrastructure by advancing green infrastructure practices, including ongoing updates to the Green Infrastructure Toolkit. Following the completion of the Regional Water Study, MORPC continues to collaborate with the Ohio EPA and local partners to inform annual data updates. Climate resilience remains a central priority across our programming—featured prominently in an upcoming breakout session at the Summit on Sustainability—and we are engaged in planning and discussions around the impacts of climate change on local air quality.

7. Working alongside the Regional Sustainability Roundtable and 39 Sustainable2050 members, MORPC hosted regular meetings to share best practices and track progress toward Regional Sustainability Agenda and MTP targets. The launch of a new online reporting platform streamlined how members log achievements and earn Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certifications, sparking an immediate increase in certified members. These combined efforts continue to advance safe and connected communities, sustainable mobility, and EV charging infrastructure.

66576-1000 - Technical Assistance Program

Budget: $800,000

Spent through 6/30: $204,385 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

MORPC revised the Technical Assistance Program Guide, moved to a quarterly solicitation cycle, and administered the first such cycle as well as another year of the program. Three planning activities were completed: the Village of Galena for a Complete Streets Safety Audit; the City of Grove City for a US-62 Multimodal Corridor Study; and the City of Hilliard for a Trail Towns & Wayfinding Study. Each service consisted of initial document review and data compilation, existing conditions assessments, on-the-ground walking and cycling audits, stakeholder engagement events, and the development of implementation and action plans. Work continues on the City of Gahanna's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Digitization, Coordination, & Publicization service, and the Village of Lockbourne was selected for an Active Transportation Planning study

66584-3000 - Safe Streets For All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities (SFY 2026)

Budget: $1,290,000

Spent through 6/30: $42,295 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

MORPC has procured a firm to complete the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan update, as well as a sub-consulting firm to complete the Regional Non-Motorized Data Plan. Administration of the Crash Analytics and Injury Research (CAIR) initiative continues.

66586-3000 - Safe Streets for All - Center for Automotive Injury Research

Budget: $2,650,000

Spent through 6/30: $22,539 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

MORPC has continued working with The Ohio State University to execute a subrecipient agreement. MORPC also completed a procurement process to select Injury Biomechanics Global (IBG) as an additional subrecipient on the grant.

67415-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient 2025 (SFY 2026)

Budget: $173,250

Spent through 6/30: $241,707

This work element is to carry out the responsibility and authority for the administration of the FTA Section 5310 Program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities for each federal fiscal year apportionment for the Columbus urbanized area. The program will follow FTA policy and program guidance in the selection of projects and apply for FTA funding using the designated FTA electronic grant management system on behalf of eligible recipients.

Prior to MAP-21, FTA Section 5310 Program funds had been apportioned to and administered statewide by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for 80% of the purchase of equipment to support transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities where existing transportation is unavailable, inappropriate, or insufficient. With the passage of the FAST Act, the Section 5310 Program was revised and expanded to include operating and some activities from the former New Freedom Program.

MORPC utilizes a 5310 Advisory Working Group made up of public volunteers within the elderly adults and individuals with disabilities sectors to review and select awards for the Columbus urbanized area.

67416-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient 2026

Budget: $176,033

Spent through 6/30: $0 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

This work element is to carry out the responsibility and authority for the administration of the FTA Section 5310 Program for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities for each federal fiscal year apportionment for the Columbus urbanized area. The program will follow FTA policy and program guidance in the selection of projects and apply for FTA funding using the designated FTA electronic grant management system on behalf of eligible recipients.

Prior to MAP-21, FTA Section 5310 Program funds had been apportioned to and administered statewide by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for 80% of the purchase of equipment to support transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities where existing transportation is unavailable, inappropriate, or insufficient. With the passage of the FAST Act, the Section 5310 Program was revised and expanded to include operating and some activities from the former New Freedom Program.

MORPC utilizes a 5310 Advisory Working Group made up of public volunteers within the elderly adults and individuals with disabilities sectors to review and select awards for the Columbus urbanized area.

67426-3000 - Mobility Management 2026

Budget: $200,000

Spent through 6/30: $158,811 Activity continues beyond SFY 2026.

The annual update to the Regional Mobility Plan was completed in June 2026. Staff conducted outreach and provided information and referrals to promote Gohio Mobility and accessible transportation options. Staff also led monthly Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee meetings and participated in quarterly meetings with mobility managers from ODOT’s Region 6 HSTC to support strategic planning for regional goals and strategies.

67436-3000 - Regional Mobility Plan 2026

Budget: $159,161

Spent through 6/30: $72,041

The Regional Mobility Plan 2026-2030 rewrite was substantially completed by June 2026. Staff led multiple planning workshops with each county in ODOT's HSTC Region 6 to develop updated regional and local goals. Staff also provided updated data on regional transportation needs and community transportation concerns to inform the rewritten plan. Staff led the Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee meetings monthly and convened mobility managers from ODOT's HSTC Region 6 quarterly for strategic planning of regional goals and strategies.

III. Ridesharing and Air Quality

Total Budget: $1,400,000

Balance Remaining for SFY 2027 or later is: $0

Work Element Report Summary

66716-3000 - Transportation Services (Ridesharing)

Budget: $800,000

Spent through 6/30: $674,658

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies proved effective in reducing traffic congestion and mitigating environmental pollution caused by motor vehicles. TDM encompassed a series of measures that promoted alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips by maximizing the utilization of existing transportation infrastructure. These measures included carpooling, vanpooling, public transportation, walking, bicycling, telecommuting, and compressed work schedules.

In 2021, the OARC Rideshare and Air Quality Subcommittee partnered with ODOT to expand the Gohio Commute ride-matching platform to serve the entire state of Ohio. MORPC held the prime contract and managed payments to the vendor, with reimbursement from OARC Rideshare and Air Quality Subcommittee members that had signed an inter-agency agreement.

In 2025, the subcommittee launched a branded Gohio Commute app featuring enhanced ride-matching capabilities, new user features, and localized language. The updated platform provided a more robust and user-friendly experience, which improved efficiency and better served commuters across Ohio.

In 2026, the statewide rideshare platform transitioned to Commute Hub, providing an enhanced user experience with improved functionality, modernized features, and a foundation for future innovations, including artificial intelligence tools to help commuters identify personalized transportation options. MORPC along with the OARC Rideshare subcommittee continued statewide marketing and employer outreach initiatives, including the Ohio Commuter Challenge, Emergency Ride Home Program, Commute Perks, employer engagement campaigns, and promotional toolkits designed to increase participation in ridesharing and other sustainable transportation options.

66736-1000 - Air Quality Awareness

Budget: $600,000

Spent through 6/30: $600,000

MORPC maintained the daily air quality forecasting program and coordinated digitally focused marketing and air quality alerts to educate the public about air quality. MORPC also convened Energy and Air Quality working group meetings to share ongoing initiatives and best practices with regional stakeholders.

MORPC completed and released its annual air quality report for ozone and PM2.5 in early 2026, participated in several media interviews, and gave several educational presentations about the state of air quality in the region.

In partnership with Franklin County Public Health, MORPC continued to advance the US EPA CLEAN project which concluded May 31, 2026. The project increased the placement of PurpleAir sensors across communities in Franklin County, expanded our public engagement activities, and elevated air quality awareness and interest from local government members and the public. This project also provided an opportunity to promote and increase Air Quality Alert sign-ups.

The MORPC team also continued to elevate our Air Quality and Gohio Commute programs through community events and communications, and EV charging infrastructure solutions through virtual forums and committee meetings.

IV. Planning Activities Undertaken By Other Entities

Total Budget: $0

Work Element Report Summary

66505-3000 - Ongoing Local Planning

This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.

MORPC regularly monitors local planning activities and participates in planning efforts of local communities as requested. Numerous other transportation planning activities are taking place through the region, as evidenced by the several dozen traffic volume or growth requests fulfilled in SFY 2026.COTA continued project development activities for the West Broad and East Main street BRT corridors. The LinkUs partners also updated the five year program of Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) projects. Columbus continued project development activities for the Northwest Corridor BRT project. Several communities are developing or updating their Thoroughfare Plans. MORPC continues to assist with the administration of the Franklin County Transportation Improvement District and working with individual counties throughout central Ohio to advance the Competitive Advantage Project list.

67401-3000 - Ongoing COTA Activities

This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.

COTA developed its 2027-2031 Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP), which was adopted in SFY27. The SRTP includes recommendations to improve services within a 5-year timeframe for fixed-route, COTA mainstream, and COTA//Plus services. COTA opened the Mobility Center at Rickenbacker, offering convenient travel options and a cross-county connection point in the Rickenbacker area. COTA also introduced tap-to-pay service using smartphone, smartwatch, and physical card on fixed-route buses. COTA progressed project development on the West Broad, East Main, and Northwest Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. COTA held public meetings for its quarterly service changes; these meetings were held twice during each quarter to both receive and deliver information.

67402-3000 - Ongoing DCT Activities

This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.

Delaware County Transit (DCT) continued to expand its ridership and service, breaking multiple records for monthly ridership through expanded FLEX service hours within the City of Delaware in addition to FLEX service in the City of Sunbury and demand-response service throughout the county. DCT completed its Workforce Transportation Study in December 2025 with multiple recommendations to meet Delaware County's growing workforce. DCT released its 2024-2028 strategic plan to the public in April 2024. The first strategic plan was launched in 2023 to identify the short- and long-term investments and changes required to move DCT into the next wave of growth in Delaware County.