MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING

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

Monday, November 9, 2026
5:30 p.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 CAC Meeting via Live Stream
Meeting ID: 274 054 895 357 32
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To listen by phone, use the conference call information below:
(888) 595-9475 United States (Toll-free)
Phone conference ID: 546 543 268#

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. **Welcome & Introductions –** Erin Synk, Chair

5:32 p.m. **Approval of August 31, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

5:33 p.m. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report –** Maria Schaper, MORPC, Dave Dixon, MORPC

- Transit Agency Reports

5:45 p.m. **Resolutions**

- Resolution T-17-26: Amending the SFY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC

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

5:55 p.m. **Regional Planning Update**

- County-level Population and Employment Projections – Adam Porr, MORPC
- MTP Engagement and Transportation Priorities – Thomas Graham, MORPC

6:20 p.m. **Informational Items**

- MPO Funding Update – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC
- Get Ready Initiative – Erin Grushon – Burgess & Niple

6:40 p.m. **Other Business**

- Membership Updates – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- Nomination of Officers – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- Roundtable Discussion

7:00 p.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 Community Advisory Committee Meeting is
Monday, November 30, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **August 31, 2026**
Time: **5:30 p.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Ferron, Leah	Girves, Catherine	May, Eric
Mchao, Suzan	Rist, John	Roehm, Bob
Solether, Ashley	Solt, Greg	Watson, Lonnie
Weiss, Ira		

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag	Dixon, Dave	Graham, Thomas
Hampton, Ralonda	Heider, Jon	Ortega, Jeff
Phelps, Tyler	Reda, Eva	Ruscin, Hannah
Schaper, Maria	Schmuhl, Dan	Vonstein, Melinda

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Vice-Chair May called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of August 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- Vice-Chair May asked for a motion to approve August 3, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Solt seconded; and the motion passed.

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

- Ms. Schaper presented the following:
- The fourth Ohio Commuter Challenge was announced and will run September 14-27, 2026. Participants can log non-single-occupancy commute trips – including carpooling, transit, biking, and walking – at gohiocommute.com for prize eligibility; members were asked to share the opportunity with their teams and communities.
- MORPC hosted the Ohio Freight Conference with more than 200 transportation, freight, and logistics professionals. MORPC is now procuring a consultant to support development of its regional freight plan and will provide updates and opportunities for stakeholder input.
- Mr. Dixon presented the following:
- MORPC's newly adopted 2026-2028 Regional Data Agenda was presented. The agenda is updated every three years to establish a shared vison and recommended activities for how MORPC, its members, and stakeholders use

measurement, analysis, and research to support policies, plans, and programs benefiting Central Ohio residents.

- The four focus areas are transportation and mobility; housing and community development; energy and sustainability; and infrastructure and economic development. Dave said these areas align with work already being conducted by MORPC members and stakeholders.
- The 2026-2028 agenda introduced four action pillars; promoting reliable and trusted data, expanding education and outreach, bolstering project and program support, and increasing digital representation and connection. Trust was added as a prominent priority compared with the prior agenda.
- Unlike the previous agenda, which prescribed specific working groups, the new agenda lists activities that can be pursued individually or collectively as capacity and funding opportunities arise. The full document is available at MORPC's regional data roundtable webpage.

IV. Transit Update

- Ms. Schaper presented the following update on behalf of COTA:
- COTA's September 2026 service changes take effect September 7, 2026, with details available on COTA's service-changes website. Since 2024, COTA has added approximately 8.5% more bus service, including midnight service on all frequent and standard lines and frequency enhancements on eight lines.
- COTA has hired 81 additional operators, purchased 76 compressed-natural-gas buses, and recorded a 5% increase in ridership. COTA also launched Tap to Pay, and Line 6 weekday frequency improved from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes after becoming a frequent-service line.
- The West-Broad Transit-Oriented Development Study continues community engagement following a March public meeting and station-area meetings. For East Main Bus Rapid Transit, COTA selected Columbus-based Alford, Inc. as construction manager at risk; Northwest BRT has reached approximately 30% design and includes dedicated lanes, new sidewalks, and an ADA accessible station at Olentangy River Road and King Avenue.
- Thirty-seven sidewalk, bikeway, and trail projects have been committed to funding for 2026. Nearly 10 miles of new sidewalks, bikeways, and trails are expected to begin construction across 27 jurisdictions in COTA's service area.

V. Resolutions

- Resolution T-13-26: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program – Dan Schmuhl, MORPC
- The amendment adds the right-of-way phase for the Orange Road railroad grade-separation project in Delaware County in state fiscal year 2027. It also adds the detailed-design phase for phase two of East Cooke Road rehabilitation, from Glenmar Avenue to Karl Road near Interstate 71, in state fiscal year 2028.
- In response to questions about the project's approximately $64 million cost, Mr. Schmuhl explained that the project requires substantial earthwork and approach construction to move Orange Road beneath the railroad, with a new bridge carrying the railroad above it. Grade separations are expensive because of the bridge materials, roadway approaches, traffic-management requirements, and the height or depth needed to clear the railroad.

- Mr. Schmuhl explained the railroad is not expected to contribute funding because the county initiated the project; however, the project includes federal discretionary grant funding. The committee asked whether road and rail traffic could continue during the construction, Mr. Schmuhl confirmed that road traffic would require at least a detour while railroad operations would need to be confirmed from the plans because temporary railroad accommodation may be possible.
- The projects were described as primarily a safety investment intended to eliminate an at-grade conflict and reduce the risk of serious or fatal crashes, rather than add roadway capacity. Members noted that grade separations are difficult to fund but may continue to appear as federal discretionary opportunities become available.
- Vice-Chair May asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-13-26. Mr. Weiss moved; Ms. Girves seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-14-26: Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2026 for Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Funding – Tyler Phelps, MORPC
- TRAC funds ODOT's major new-capacity program, generally covering capacity adding projects exceeding $12 million. MORPC's role is to provide a priority ranking; the 2026 cycle accepted only project-development requests, used prior evaluation scores, and had a shorter schedule than previous cycles.
- The two US 33-related projects – the I-270/US 33 interchange and US 33 widening – received high priority. State Route 161 widening and State Route 315 at Lane Avenue received medium priority, while Sunbury Parkway Phase C and US 23 at Orange Road and Parkway Drive received low priority. A separate application was acknowledged for the US 23 at State Route 762 interchange in the CORPO area.
- A committee member asked why the State Route 161 widening overview did not mention planned high-capacity transit. Staff explained that COTA is studying the east-west corridor from Dublin to New Albany and that transit planning is separate from ODOT's highway project development. Transit was not included in the current project scope, although a prior resolution had requested that transit be considered in the design process.
- Public comments were collected and reviewed as a qualitative input alongside the data-driven scoring process. Eleven letters supported the State Route 315 at Lane Avenue project, one comment supported US 33 widening, and a general comment addressed small-business participation goals. The comments did not change the staff rankings and were forwarded to ODOT, TRAC, and project sponsors.
- Vice-Chair May asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-14-26. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Solt seconded; three committee members opposed; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-15-26: Supporting the ODOT Federal Performance Target Setting – Jon Heider, MORPC
- ODOT establishes performance targets for each four-year federal reporting period through state fiscal year 2029. Most measures are statewide, while selected measures are regional and are developed with MPOs and LCATs. These targets are federally prescribed short-range measures and provide less flexibility than MORPC's long-range MTP goals.

- The infrastructure-condition measures cover interstate and non-interstate National Highway System pavement and bridge conditions, categorized as good or poor. The principle proposed change is increasing the non-interstate NHS poor-pavement target from 2% to 3% based on pavement-condition and funding trends; other targets remain unchanged.
- The emissions measures track daily reductions in PM2.5, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds from CMAQ-funded projects. Mr. Heider clarified that statewide totals include all MPOs, while the MORPC and LCAT figures reflect projects in those respective areas. MORPC projects contribute substantially to VOC and NOX reductions, while LCAT's reported reductions are under one kilogram per day.
- The regional peak-hour excessive-delay target is to remain at no more than 10 hours per capita per year; the region is currently below that level, at approximately eight hours. Excessive delay compares actual travel conditions with baseline travel time, so it measures unusually delayed conditions rather than simply the distance someone travels.
- The proposed non-single-occupancy-vehicle target is at least 19.5% over the reporting period and includes work-from-home travel. A methodology change has produced results roughly 10% different from the prior method, and because the full methodology details are no yet available, staff recommended a conservative target for this cycle and may revisit it later.
- Vice-Chair May asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-15-26. Ms. Girves moved; Mr. Weiss seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-16-25: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2026 – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- The annual work program identifies how MORPC uses federal planning funds to conduct metropolitan transportation planning, including MTP and TIP activities. The completion report reviews the work planned for state fiscal year 2026, covering July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and documents whether the planned work was completed.
- For core programs funded with federal planning dollars, MORPC can shift spending within broader program categories when actual needs differ from the initial budget. Unspent amounts may be carried forward and directed to another eligible program that requires additional funding.
- The reported expenditures are preliminary because the finance team's final invoice to ODOT is not due until September 30, 2026. Additional invoices or late-recorded July expenditures may change the totals; if the final amounts differ substantially, MORPC will administratively coordinate an amendment with ODOT.
- Vice-Chair May asked for a motion to approve Resolution T-16-25. Mr. Weiss moved; Ms. Ferron seconded; and the motion passed.

VI. Informational Items

- Section 5310 FY26 Program Update – Hannah Ruscin, MORPC
- Section 5310 funds capital and operating projects that improve mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable. Eligible activities include vehicle purchases, preventative maintenance, mobility management, contracted transportation, wheelchair lifts, ramps, securement devices, bus shelters, construction, and communications equipment.

- MORPC has awarded approximately $8.5 million through the program over the past five years and received about $1.9 million for federal fiscal year 2026. Projects require a 20% local match, with the remaining 80% federally funded. The service area primarily covers Franklin and Delaware counties and portions of Union, Licking, Pickaway, and Fairfield counties; eligible applicants include private nonprofits, governments, and public or private transportation operators.
- This funding cycle was announced September 1, 2026. The application opens on September 30, 2026, immediately following a mandatory virtual workshop. Applicants unable to attend the workshop may contact Ms. Ruscin to arrange an alternative.
- MORPC will score applications and organize projects, meet with the Section 5310 working group in late November 2026, and present a recommended program of projects to CAC and TAC in December 2026. Commission and FTA approvals are expected in January 2027, grant submissions in February 2027, and final funding agreements by the end of February 2027.
- Ms. Ruscin explained that annual allocations have generally ranged from approximately $1.6 million to $2 million. The two cycles before 2026 were around $1.7 million, making the current allocation just under $2 million comparatively higher but not an unusual fluctuation. She also clarified that MORPC has administered the program since approximately 2015.
- Cycling Guide – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC
- With ODOT funding, MORPC updated the Columbus Metro Bike Map for its sixth edition and created the first regional trail map. Approximately 60,000 copies are available free for distribution to businesses, libraries, community centers, and other local organizations through a request form.
- The bike map includes bike-level-of-stress information, comfortable or safer route options, corridors users may want to avoid, cycling organizations, partner information, and the regional trail network. The regional trail guide shows existing paved, regionally significant trails across 15 counties, emerging trails such as the Big Walnut Trail, and nine curated featured rides.
- In response to committee members' questions, Ms. Vonstein explained that the regional trail guide focuses on fully separated, off-road trails. It is designed particularly for people who are new to cycling or want routes where they can feel safer and more comfortable.
- The Central Ohio Greenways vision includes more than 1,000 miles of existing or proposed trails. MORPC is broadening the definition of greenways to include trailheads and gateways, protected on-road bikeways, blueways for kayaking, and ecoways emphasizing scenic and conservation corridors.
- The new Trail Towns program was launched with five communities and helps them develop local identities, marketing, branding, and partnerships that promote walking, biking, trail use, and community vitality. Experience Columbus contributed brand support, and a toolkit includes coloring pages, brochures, signage, and online resources for participating communities.
- MORPC intends to establish a new Trail Town onboarding cohort annually; four or five communities have expressed interest in the next cohort. The program builds coalitions involving local government, tourism staff, chamber of commerce, businesses, and advocates. A future ambassador-training component will prepare local coalitions to answer trail questions and organize rides, while MORPC plans to use resources from Yay Bikes and the League of American Bicyclists.

- MORPC is working with the City of Columbus to determine how neighborhoods or areas can participate, given the city's size and multiple departments. Downtown Columbus may be designed later, potentially timed with completion of major walking and biking improvements such as Capitol Line.
- Ms. Vonstein explained that Trail Towns are not governed by one national organization or standardized model. MORPC drew on other programs, including Great Allegheny Passage program, and developed its approach with community thought leaders. Because there is no dedicated state or federal funding, the program depends on local priorities and grassroots support.

VII. Other Business

- CAC Member Updates – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- As terms approach expiration, members may receive notices explaining whether they need to reapply. Several CAC seats remain open, and MORPC continues reviewing applications while seeking broader geographic representation across Franklin, Delaware, and portions of Union, Licking, Fairfield, and Madison counties.
- At the November 2026 CAC meeting, the committee expects to confirm or update officer roles for 2027.
- MORPC is launching the BEST initiative to overhaul project prioritization and project selection for inclusion in the MTP. Staff said the existing scoring process helped determine which projects entered the current MTP, but the agency now wants to reassess both the prioritization process and the region's underlying transportation goals.
- The MTP effort will include public events, surveys, targeted stakeholder outreach, and engagement with CAC, TAC, and the MPO board. MORPC asked CAC members to participate in a proposed in-person workshop on September 28, 2026, with evening and possibly virtual options under consideration.
- The workshop would focus on goals for the 2028-2055 MTP. Staff plan to bring a draft set of goals through the committee process in November 2026, and seek adoption by December 2026, allowing time to incorporate CAC and broader public input.
- In response to a suggestion, staff said they would provide pre-work or survey materials before the workshop and send members additional public-engagement materials to review, complete, and share with their networks. Staff will confirm the date and agenda with the consultant team and send follow-up communication.
- Roundtable Discussion
- Vice-Chair May relayed that COTA announced free fares for the full day on Tuesday and Wednesday during the heat advisory.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Maria Schaper, Secretary
Community Advisory Committee

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

September / October 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:

- Held stakeholder workshops with CAC and TAC members to solicit input to inform the development of MTP goals/guiding principles.
- Held two virtual stakeholder workshops with community members and representatives of community groups.
- Conducted public pop-up engagement events in Plain City, Whitehall, Delaware, Grove City, and the Franklinton, Downtown, Southside, Linden, east side, northeast, and Hilltop neighborhoods of Columbus.
- Published and advertised a survey to solicit public input to inform the development of the MTP goals/guiding principles.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- The 2026 Quarter 4 Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee was hosted by the Franklin County Office on Aging.
- Mobility Management and Gohio Mobility resources were shared in the Franklin County Board of Development Disabilities Provider Fair, the Ohio Department of Medicaid Employee Health and Wellness Fair, and the Schiller Park Senior Wellness Jamboree.
- The Mobility Manager co-facilitated informational sessions on accessible mobility for the Age-Friendly Innovation Center's Age-Friendly Scholars and MORPC's Summit on Sustainability.
- 17 resident mobility cases were addressed in August 2026, and 15 were addressed in September 2026.
- MORPC Staff applied for 5310 Franklin County Mobility Management grant for the 2027-2028 grant year

Gohio Commute

- MORPC staff established three new Gohio Commute vanpools which will start service in November and December.
- Conducted Gohio Commute focus groups with internal non-users to identify registration barriers and opportunities to explain the program's benefits more clearly.
- Held the statewide challenge September 14–27 to encourage commuters to carpool, vanpool, bike, walk, ride transit, and telework. The challenge resulted in 1,668 logged trips and a reduction of 5.45 tons of CO_2 emissions.
- Advanced the next statewide Gohio Commute and Gohio Mobility platform procurement, with the RFP distributed to vendors on September 28.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- The FY2026 5310 cycle opened on September 30, 2026, and closed on October 30, 2026. MORPC will receive and distribute $1.9M to fund Section 5310 projects in the Columbus Urbanized Area. The 5310 Advisory Working Group will meet on November 13, 2026 to discuss application evaluations and develop the recommended Program of Projects.
- FTA approved the FY2025 award application. All subrecipient contracts from this funding cycle were executed in October 2026.
- Completion of the Group Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan for open door 5310 transportation providers are in progress. MORPC serves as the TAM Plan sponsor for 5310 providers in the Columbus Urbanized Area, and staff are currently seeking vehicle asset information from transportation providers required for the update.
- The Venture Regional application was submitted to FTA's FY2026 Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) Pilot Program on September 9, 2026. MORPC, Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS), Age-Friendly Innovation Center, and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging submitted a $900,000 total project request to expand the LCATS Venture Local app and facilitate cross-county connections in Central Ohio.

Regional Mobility Plan

- ODOT Office of Transit SFY28 funding applications are due November 13, 2026. MORPC is preparing an application for up to $200,000 to support implementing the 2026-2030 Regional Mobility Plan and contributing to Gohio Commute/Gohio Mobility software purchases.
- The Regional Coordinator attended county-level Transportation Advisory Committees in Franklin, Licking, Logan, Madison, Union Counties to support Regional Mobility Plan goal implementation.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on September 23, 2026. TCC members discussed and approved recommended updates to the TSI Program Policies and 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) updates. The Recommended TSI Program Policies and updated 2027-2031 CIP will both next be considered for approval by the Leadership Committee.
- Solicitation of requests for project status updates to 2028-2031 TSI CIP commitments and new project funding opened in early October. Both can be submitted through the Application for TSI Funding Assistance. Project status update requests are due by October 30, 2026, and new project funding requests are due by November 27, 2026.

- Washington Township, City of Dublin, and LinkUS partners held a Shier Rings Road Shared-Use Path groundbreaking ceremony on September 18, 2026. The project received $544,300 in TSI funding.
- LinkUS Northwest Bus Rapid Transit Corridor kicked off the 60% design phase in October 2026. MORPC attended a stakeholder workshop to discuss project goals.

Passenger Rail

- Held a Central Ohio Passenger Rail Advisory Council meeting on October 1, 2026, to discuss passenger rail planning progress and reengaging the private sector through a future Rail Executive Network meeting.
- Engaged Big Sky consulting to provide strategic counsel on critical technical planning activities and future corridor phasing.
- Attended the Passenger Rail Association's RailNation: Toledo conference on October 2 and 3, 2026. A panel discussion on government collaboration included MORPC and Lake Erie West.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- CORPO County subcommittee meetings were hosted in each of the seven CORPO counties between September 14, 2026 and September 30, 2026.
- A public comment periods was held for the SFY 2028 –2029 Policies for Managing CORPO Dedicated Funds from Tuesday, September 8, 2026, to Friday, October 9, 2026, at 5 PM. No comments were received and no changes were made. The CORPO Board will consider approval of the Policies at their November meeting.
- The CORPO Board will meet on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 2 PM.

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 currently working on data collection and preparation, existing conditions assessments and analysis, and regional engagement coordination with the BEST initiative.
- Deliverables for the US-23 "Pathways for People" Active Transportation Plan are being finalized and sent to the ODOT District 6 Team and stakeholder group for review. These include a Final Plan document, online StoryMap Collection, and other key final deliverables are being finalized. A final presentation of the plan and its key takeaways is tentatively scheduled for November 30, 2026, in the City of Delaware.
- MORPC completed its participation in a pilot study of the National Cooperative Highway Research Practice (NCHRP) 01-165 "Use of Active Transportation Data in Decision-Making" Guide and Data Compendium, led by the Toole Design Group. This study has provided MORPC with an advance look at state-of-practice reference materials for using active transportation data to inform decision-making, with the LinkUS Transit-Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Program and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) used as case studies for the pilot.
- Team members attended and presented at the 2026 Ohio Active Transportation Conference hosted by the Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) on September 2, 2026. Along with representatives from ODOT Central Office and The City of Cleveland's VisionZero Program, MORPC presented on using safety data to inform active transportation design.
- MORPC attended and provided input at ODOT District 6's "US-23 Greif Parkway to Cheshire Road" stakeholder open house on September 29, 2026. ODOT presented some early development concepts for grade-separating each of these intersections with US-23 to improve traffic safety and efficiency as part of the over-arching Route-23 Connect Initiative. MORPC will continue to attend Route-23 Connect

open houses and events to ensure projects and improvements incorporate multimodal transportation priorities identified in the MTP and US-23 “Pathways for People” Active Transportation Plan.

- Team members partnered with Delaware General Health District and Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) to conduct walk audits with City of Delaware area partners and OWU public health students of two (2) different routes in the City of Delaware on September 30 and October 2, 2026. As part of this effort, the team also provided a presentation to the OWU public health class about the intersection of the built environment and public health on September 28, 2026.
- MORPC attended the first ever Delaware County Trails Forum on October 1, 2026. Local officials and community partners discussed recent and ongoing trail development and park preservation efforts in the County, and strategized around opportunities to advance new trails in the County moving forward. Team members presented on the Central Ohio Greenways Program, Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) services and opportunities, and the US-23 “Pathways for People” Active Transportation Plan.
- The Active Transportation Working Group (ATWG) met on October 14, 2026. Representatives from the City of Columbus’ Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) provided updates on CRPD’s American Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and the ongoing Linden Greenline trail and linear park development process. A Knox County-based active transportation advocate and volunteer also shared success stories from the City of Mount Vernon’s Bike-Bus program, and WG members discussed how to expand on existing Bike-Bus successes regionally.

Transportation Safety:

- MORPC’s participation in The Ohio State University’s “Safe Streets for Buckeyes” Multimodal Transportation Plan continues. Team members attended a walk audit of the campus area on September 18, 2026, as well as a focus group with the planning team, tOSU representatives, and City of Columbus representatives on October 26, 2026.
- The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan (COTSP) update and Non-Motorized Data Program Development Plan launched on October 5, 2026. These are the initial components of MORPC’s FY23 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) award and will inform the successive components of the grant award, including installation and evaluation of pedestrian safety demonstration projects, installation of non-motorized data collection equipment, and establishment of a complete streets safety audit program. The COTSP update will also set the regional safety program’s action plan and priorities for the next 4 years.
- The team evaluated Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) District 3 Funding and MPO Funding applications for safety and provided evaluation results to the overall evaluation processes for each funding program which MORPC administers.
- MORPC attended the following safety subcommittee and working group meetings in September and October:
    - Ohio Association of Regional Council’s (OARC) Transportation Safety Subcommittee Meeting, Tuesday, September 8, 2026.
    - Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) Meeting, Thursday, September 10, 2026.
    - Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation (COAST) Meeting, Thursday, September 17, 2026.
- Complete streets reviews were conducted for the following projects:
    - Zollinger Rd Improvements Stage 1 (PID 119825)
    - SR 37 Reconstruction Stage 3 (PID 120256)
    - Big Walnut Trail Stage 2 (PID 119997)
    - Hillard-Rome Rd at Renner Rd Stage 1 (PID 119852)

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. A stakeholder workshop with local and regional partners is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th at the Lockbourne Village Hall to review existing conditions findings and collaboratively discuss project opportunities, challenges, and strategies for advancement.
- Consultants have been selected for all projects awarded through the Quarter 2, 2026 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) Program. Services are anticipated to begin later this year.
- Three (3) applications have been selected for quarter 3, 2026 TAG awards, all for consultant services. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are being developed for each and will be posted soon. The Q3 award recipients and their services are listed below:
    - Blendon Township – Project Development Activities
    - City of Sunbury – Multimodal Transportation Plan
    - Violet Township – Thoroughfare Plan
- The next TAG Program evaluation deadline will be on January 22, 2027 (Quarter 1, 2027).

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
- Coordinated with LCATS on projects requiring air quality conformity determination and ensured those projects are included in MORPC and LCATS air quality conformity analysis
- Reviewed non-programmed projects and updated project information with programmed information as needed
- Completed SFY 2026 obligation report

MORPC MPO Funding

- Processed MPO Funding applications for new commitments for SFY 2027-2033
- Reviewed new commitment applications and coordinated errors and omissions with applicants
- Hosted MPO Funds Committee meeting to give applicants the opportunity to present new application projects and give the committee the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Also asked for a received approval on existing commitment updates.
- Evaluated application subject projects utilizing established policy-defined criteria and provided draft scoring to the MPO Funds Committee.
- Continued to update and maintain MPO Funds availability report. Incorporated approved existing commitment updates.
- Provided report summarizing new commitment requests against available funds to begin planning for draft funding scenarios

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- Processed applications for SFY 2028 (Round 41) infrastructure funding
- Initiated Round 41 projects in the Infrastructure Funding Management System (IFMS)
- Reviewed applications and coordinated errors and omissions with applicants

- Hosted Public Works Integrating Committee (PWIC) meeting to give applicants the opportunity to present new application projects and give the committee the opportunity to ask questions and provide comment.
- Began evaluating Round 41 project applications
- Met with new District 3 program representative for introductions and to coordinate policies and procedures
- Coordinated with OPWC leadership to schedule meetings with program representatives in the spring

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- Completed and submitted regional project priority rankings
- Prepared for and attended regional presentation of projects meeting
- Attended TRAC meetings
- Learned of draft funding recommendations for the 2026 cycle
- Prepared materials summarizing draft funding recommendations for Central Ohio projects to be presented at committee meetings

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- The revision process to update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is still underway! At the November 19, 2026, CEDS Committee meeting, the Advisory Committee will finalize the evaluation framework section and will make final recommendations for revisions before the document is shared for Public Comment in December. The public comment period will be open from December 7, 2026 – January 15, 2027.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- In the recent round of Competitive Advantage Projects, MORPC received 23 project nominations from seven counties spanning infrastructure development, roadwork, trails and green spaces. MORPC's internal evaluation session took place on October 15, 2026. Feedback will be collected from One Columbus and the CEDS Committee in November before review by the Economic Development District Board in December 2026, after which the project list will be announced.

Regional Economic Development Academy:

- The Academy's Responsible Data Center Development course took place on September 22, 2026, with in-depth discussions on the economic impacts of real data center projects, City of St. Louis' zoning regulations around these developments and resources available to communities undergoing data center projects.

  Three courses remain in MORPC's Regional Economic Development Academy. Join us for these hands-on training courses provided by practitioners and specialists recognized for their expertise across the economic and community development fields. Don't miss out on the last three courses this year:

  - Supply Side Solutions that fit Central Ohio's Housing Problem on November 10, 2026
  - Community Engagement Dynamics rescheduled for November 16, 2026
  - Rural Futures on December 9, 2026

Freight Planning:

- After a competitive RFP process, CPCS was selected as the lead consultant for the Regional Freight Plan. 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.

  As the plan is developed, CPCS 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.

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- COG will host the annual Regional Trail Vision Workshop on November 5, 2026, at MORPC. This workshop is an opportunity for communities to share their new trail ideas, feasibility understandings, funding projects. Communities will be asked to recommend not only trails, but also Gateways, Bikeways, Blueways, and Eco-Ways. All of these ideas will be later shared with the COG Advisory Council for recommended inclusion in the Regional Trail Vision.
- Printed bike maps may be requested by emailing Sam Smith at Ssmith@morpc.org.
- 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 Design Guide will be complete first quarter 2027.
- The Blueways Working Group will meet again on November 4, 2026, to provide input on the BLOOM Design Guide.
- The COG Advisory Council will meet again on November 18, 2026, to discuss potential changes to the regional trail vision.
- The Trail Towns of Central Ohio Program launched in January 2026 with a cohort of five 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. Award announcements should be made soon.

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 provided temporary staff planning assistance to the City of Reynoldsburg Development Department. The project kicked off on June 15, 2026, and closed on September 25. 2026.
- The MORPC, the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO), and the Village of South Bloomfield will host a stakeholder workshop on November 10, 2026, focused on the South Bloomfield-to-Ashville Trail Connector.
- MORPC will convene leaders across Perry County for a “Planning for the Future” luncheon on November 19, 2026, focused on sharing practical planning strategies and successful local practices highlighted during MORPC’s recent visits to Perry County, Somerset, and New Lexington.

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/.
- The 2027 prequalification process will be open from December 1, 2026, through January 8, 2027. Consultants will be notified of their prequalification status by February 1, 2027. In addition to the existing project types, the 2027 cycle will include Trail Vision and Design in support of the Central Ohio Greenways 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 took place on September 16, 2026, at SWACO, followed by a landfill tour. The next meeting will be on December 16, 2026, in Gahanna, where the next round of Sustainable2050 certifications will be presented. Please reach out to Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org for more information.

Sustainable2050:

- The next Sustainable2050 meeting will take place on December 3, 2026.
- MORPC and SWACO will convene the next Commercial Recycling Working Group meeting on November 18, 2026, at 3:00 pm to explore municipal approaches for commercial and multi-family recycling. 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 pursue tier status certification beginning in spring 2027. 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 COWAC met on September 15, 2026, and participated in a guided tour of the City of Columbus' Blueprint Columbus sites across the Clintonville community. 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 allowed members an opportunity to see these projects firsthand and learn more about their planning, implementation, and community benefits.
- The next COWAC meeting will be on December 8, 2026, at the MORPC office.

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 designations, specifically on the proposed decision-making process. Additional conversations are ongoing around a complementary scope of work to support the 208 plans.
- 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

- Interested in serving on the Natural Resource Assistance Council in District 3 (Franklin) or District 17 (Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Morrow, Knox)? If you are interested in serving on a Council, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org. Applications are open until December 4, 2026.
- <u>District 3 – Franklin County</u>

  The NRAC received six applications and a total of $7,481,393 in Clean Ohio requested funds. Members and staff visited the project sites on September 10, 2026. A site visit allows council Members to ask

questions about the projects and see firsthand the physical properties and potential benefits of the proposed project. Members will make a recommendation for funding projects on November 10, 2026.

- District 17 – Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties

  The NRAC received four applications and a total of $5,039,197 in Clean Ohio requested funds. Members and staff visited the project sites on October 16, 2026, and had a firsthand opportunity to tour the sites and ask questions. The Council will meet on November 19, 2026, to vote and recommend projects for funding.

Energy Planning:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

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

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 one cohort meeting sharing best practices and beginning to aggregate documentation for each community's targeted designation level. One-on-one meetings with individual communities will continue as we work 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 19, 2026, and October 23, 2026.

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. MORPC will be ramping up marketing and community education efforts next, with digital kiosk signage going live on October 12, 2026, around Franklin County. MORPC also featured the neighborhood air sensor program at the Big Table on September 29, 2026, in partnership with the City of Columbus. The event, titled "Air Quality: Protecting our Air, Preserving our Future", highlighted how indoor and outdoor monitoring can be paired together to empower residents and reduce their exposure to poor air quality.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

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

Regional Data Roundtable (RDR):

- The RDR met next on October 13, 2026, and had a robust discussion of activities currently being explored or pursued individually or collectively. Topics included next steps regarding pursuit of improved data asset management practices, an overview of MORPC's latest Population Projections, planning updates and call for keynote speaker recommendations for Data Day 2027, potential format and frequency changes for Regional Information and Data Group (RIDG) meetings, and concerns regarding proposed changes to the U.S. Decennial Census, and the planned launch of the Leaders Listen: Transportation survey on October 28, 2026.
- The RDR will meet next on January 12, 2027, at the MORPC office.
- Regional Data Roundtable Groups typically meet monthly; please find updates below.

Working Groups

- Cybersecurity Working Group
    - Working Group Member Julia Armstrong from OSU recently shared an update regarding a new cybersecurity bachelor's completion program being developed at The Ohio State University for students holding associate degrees in cybersecurity. The program is intended to better align hands-on technical experience with academic theory and improve educational pathways for cybersecurity professionals.
    - Staff noted that MORPC has spent the past several months addressing National Institute of Standards and Technology framework updates and developing cybersecurity governance initiatives. MORPC is beginning work on data management and data governance planning and requested recommendations from Members regarding effective approaches to data discovery, governance, and organizational implementation.
    - Working Group Members discussed the development of a comprehensive data governance framework. Member Duane Powell recommended beginning with policy development to establish expectations and requirements before all data sources are fully identified. He emphasized that policies can guide future technology acquisitions and create standards that support long-term governance efforts. He also discussed implementing formal exception processes that require business leaders to document and periodically reaffirm acceptance of cybersecurity risks when requesting deviations from established policies.
    - 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 met on October 23, 2026, to further discuss the needed stakeholders and steps to advance planning and decision making around housing opportunity leveraging data and research. The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) at The Ohio State University is currently conducting listening sessions and taking the lead on assembling a data and research stakeholder group. While the details of the work to come are still taking shape, the goal is to find ways to better collaborate and share information around housing affordability, instability, and homelessness. Staff and members interested in this topic should reach out to Dave Dixon, ddixon@morpc.org.
- Central Ohio GIS User Working Group (COGUG)

- The next meeting will be held on November 18, 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. Attendees also explored 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 on the recent air quality work done with City of Columbus in the American Addition community looking at indoor and outdoor air quality. The conversation will also discuss steps MORPC has been taking to elevate and improve data structures and systems to better interact and engage with the PurpleAir data we collect. 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.
- Staff completed several tasks focused on continual improvement of our existing systems, including:
    - Added decennial population counts to our combined collection of population facts
    - Attempted to formalize and standardize schemas for key datasets used in MTP-related workflows (land use model, travel demand model)
    - Created formal specifications for data and visualizations to be included in the MORPC Insights platform and created a Python module with features to help data contributors prepare data in compliance with the specification and validate compliance
    - Created formal specifications for geographic identifiers used in MORPC-maintained datasets and created Python functions to translate Census GEOIDs and MORPC GEOIDs (where applicable)

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

Data & Research Activities

- County projections of population, households, jobs and several other variables for the years 2025 to 2055 (also known as "county control totals") have been finalized and will be presented at the Pre-Commission luncheon on November 12, 2026. A resolution to approve the projections in conjunction with the MTP guiding principles will be introduced at the December 10, 2026, Commission meeting. Projections were produced for three scenarios: historically typical migration, historically low migration, and historically high migration.

- Final January 1, 2026, county/city/village/township population and MORPC Member dues estimates were approved at the September 10,2026, Commission meeting. A resolution to approve the estimates and dues will be put forth at the November 12, 2026, Commission meeting. The estimates are available upon request and will soon be published on the MORPC Insights platform.
- MORPC Insights
    - Work on Insights Phase 2 development has been temporarily suspended due to staffing changes. The project will focus on adding content, adding features to allow comparisons between different geographies, and improving the user experience for people with disabilities. The work is funded by a grant from The Columbus Foundation.
    - Work to update existing content in MORPC Insights to incorporate the latest available data and refresh the headlines and commentary is expected to be completed by the end of the month. This effort also started to incorporate formal standards for data and visualization (described above) and several tilesets have been made more accessible to users with disabilities.
- Several staff attended the annual partner meeting for the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. MORPC is a co-partner representing Central Ohio in the network, along with the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis. Staff presented MORPC's air quality monitoring work and facilitated a session focused on the use of state data to augment federal data and mitigate reduced confidence in federal data. Adam Porr, MORPC Associate Director of Data Analysis, was selected for the Network Steward of the Year award for sharing ideas and resources with network participants and for presenting MORPC's work to the network on several occasions over the past year. More information is available at https://neighborhoodindicators.org.
- Staff continue to manage the organization's air quality sensor data. The team has developed improved data infrastructure for air quality data including improved scripts for retrieving, standardizing, and validating the raw PurpleAir data, a relational database for storing the raw and standardized data locally for convenient and inexpensive retrieval, and a custom web application to facilitate the exploration of the data and management of the sensors themselves. The infrastructure is implemented using Docker containers for easy deployment and disaster recovery and improved documentation.
- Work continues on the next iteration of the Leaders Listen Survey Series, which will focus on Transportation. The survey will be launched at the Summit on Sustainability on October 28, 2026. 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:
    - Estimates of library district population for Franklin County Auditor.
    - Estimates of school district population for several districts.
    - Demographic data for unincorporated areas in the SWACO district.
    - Guidance on fine-grained travel activity data for OKI Regional Council of Governments.

Mapping Activities

- All major activities during this time period are related to preparing inputs for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
- MPO Funding projects were mapped.
- OPWC projects were mapped.
- Two GIS staff presented at the Ohio GIS conference in late Sept and entered the Metro Bike User Map in the Map Gallery.
- Regional COG map created for workshops.
- Franklin LBRS editors' meeting held to discuss pending NexGen requirements.

Modeling Activities

- Working on subregion analysis for East Main St, Rickenbacker, Northwest Corridor, Fairfield County, the City of Obetz and Grove City
- Ten traffic growth rate requests completed
- Network validation work continues
- Modeling staff attended OTEC

MTP Activities

- Future land use at parcel level for 10 counties finished end of October
- Preparing land use model inputs (county controls, household, jobs, group quarters) for existing condition
- Update/validate land use model scripts

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

News Releases:

- LinkUS Advances Constrruction of Shier Rings Road Shared-Use Path – MORPC.org (9/24/26)
- MORPC Kicks off Developement of the 2028-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – MORPC.org (9/17/26)
- Three Communities Recognized With Sustainable2050 Desigtnations – MORPC.org (9/10/26)

MORPC in the News:

- When Is Your Community's Trick-or-Treat Night?, AXIOS Columbus (10/13/26)
- Commissioners Hear from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Logan Daily News (10/5/26)
- Central Ohio Communities Schedule Trick-Or-Treat Times, Dates, The Columbus Dispatch (10/1/26)
- List: 2026 Trick-or-Treat Dates, Times in Columbus Area, WCMH-NBC4 (9/28/26)
- COTA, Dublin, Washington Township Break Ground on LinkUS Trail Project, The Columbus Dispatch (9/22/26)
- Three Central Ohio Communities Earn MORPC Sustainable 2050 Honors, WSYX-ABC 6 and Fox 28 (9/11/26)

Digital Content:

Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Threads:

- Sustainable September, Summit on Sustainability, Labor Day, Sustainable2050, September 11, Rosh Hashanah, Regional Economic Development Academy – Responsible Data Center Development, Green Champions Podcast, Shier Rings Shared Use Path Project, Yom Kippur, e-Source, The Big Table, Pedestrian Safety Month, Indigenous People's Day, Water, Business Has A Voice, Touch a Truck.

Reach:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Top Posts:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- September 9, 2026: FCBDD Provider and Community Resource Fair
- September 10-13, 2026: Latinos In Transit Leadership Summit
- September 17, 2026: EXPO Partners – City of Columbus Orientation
- September 19, 2026: Affordable Housing Resource Fair
- September 23, 2026: Miami University: Government & Nonprofit Career Day
- September 24, 2026: OSU Construction, Civil & Environmental Career Day
- September 30, 2026: Fall Career and Internship Fair
- October 1, 2026: Rooted and Rising, Community Resources and Trails Event
- October 8, 2026: EXPO Partners – City of Columbus Orientation
- October 15, 2026: Touch- A- Truck, Franklin County Engineers Event

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

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

Member Visits Completed

- Buckeye Lake 9/2/26; Baltimore 9/2/26; Held a combined Communities Luncheon with New Lexington, Somerset, and Perry County 9/2/26; Perry Township 9/8/26; Granville Village 9/9/26; Granville Township 9/9/26; Newark 9/9/26; Licking Soil & Water Conservation District 9/9/26; Reynoldsburg 9/17/26; Truro Township 9/17/26; Fairfield County 9/22/26; Lancaster 9/22/26; Pickaway County 9/22/26; Circleville 9/22/26; Ashville 9/23/26; South Bloomfield 9/23/26; Chillicothe 9/23/26; Educational Service Center 9/23/26; Licking County 9/24/26; Hocking County 10/1/26; Bloom Township 10/1/26; Delaware County 10/5/26; Columbus Metropolitan Library 10/6/26

Attended Partner Activities

- Met with Buckeye Lake Corporation 9/2/26
- CMC 50th Anniversary Celebration 9/10/26
- State of Fairfield County 9/29/26
- State of the City – Hilliard 10/8/26
- Bloom Township Trustee – Special Recognition for MORPC 10/14/26
- Summit on Sustainability 10/28/26
- OSU John Glenn Leadership Day 10/30/26

Local Government Summer Program

- Hosted tables and Information Session (GIS students) at Miami University: Government & Nonprofit Career Day 9/23/26
- Hosted tables at the OSU Construction, Civil & Environmental Engineering Career Fair 9/24/26
- Hosted tables at OHIO Fall Career and Internship Fair 9/30/26
- Completed preparation to open host applications 10/1/26
- Working on securing hosts for the 2027 program opened request period 10/1/26
- Completed class presentations with OSU Knowlton students 10/8/26
- Completed promotional items for recruitment fairs

Other Activities

- Completed new board member orientations for Chris Sharrock-Pataskala 9/3/23; Ryan Yzensky-Somerset 9/3/26; and Kristin Howard-Franklin County Public Health 9/21/26
- Member Benefit Management: Assisted with monthly newsletter items
- Manage grant finder and CDFA benefit enrollment
- Return on investment – Financials; ROI letter; ROI summary document
- Preparing distribution of ROI – Financials; ROI letter; ROI summary document

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION
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www.morpc.org

Memorandum

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

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: October 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-17-26: **"Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program"**

Proposed Resolution T-17-26 will add, modify, or remove four (4) 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 January, 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:

- OP 8: Manage, improve and coordinate human service, private and public transportation, to better meet the needs and fill the gaps
- BP 3: Build safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling
- BP 7: Ensure neighborhoods and activity centers have safe and comfortable connections for walking and bicycling to transit networks
- TRAN 5: Implement appropriate additional/innovative service to address first/last mile needs
- RDWY 3: Construct new interchanges, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional development goals

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

- RDWY 5: Add capacity, where appropriate, at locations such as intersections to alleviate existing congestion that hinders economic activity

- RDWY 6: Construct new roadways, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional or local development goals

- RDWY 7: Provide efficient connectivity of local roads to the arterial and collector roadway system

- 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.

ODOT – District 6: The following modification to the TIP is being made for an ODOT project:

- PID 106960, DEL-Sunbury Parkway Phase B (Sunbury Parkway extension and I-71 interchange modification): Adjustment of air quality status from exempt to non-exempt (analyzed) and increase in right of way phase budget from $4,200,000 to $6,674,863 due to an additional funding award.

City of Dublin: The following removal from the TIP is being made for a City of Dublin project:

- PID 122127, FRA Emerald Connector (New bridge from Emerald Parkway to Tuller Road): Removal of construction phase from SFY 2029 to an out year with local commitment of $17,589,800. Removal of committed funding phase within active TIP years triggers the removal of this project from the TIP.

City of Sunbury: The following addition to the TIP is being made for a City of Sunbury project:

- PID 126949, DEL Sunbury Parkway Phase D (Sunbury Parkway extension and I-71 interchange modification): Added environmental phase to the project in SFY 2027 with funding commitment totaling $1,250,000. Adding this committed funding phase within active TIP years triggers the addition of this project to the TIP.

Delaware County Transit Board: The following modification to the TIP is being made for a DCT project:

- PID 118101, S2027 DCT Operating (assistance for standard operating budget): Reducing total subaward amount from $4,684,813 to $862,510 as a result of the actual ODOT SFY 2027 Urban Transit Program award amount.

Attachment: Proposed Resolution T-17-26

RESOLUTION T-17-26

"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 an ODOT – District 6 project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project removal from the 2026-2029 TIP has been identified as needed for a City of Dublin project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project addition to the 2026-2029 TIP has been identified as needed for a City of Sunbury project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2026-2029 TIP has been identified as needed for a Delaware County Transit Board 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 November 9, 2026, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on November 4, 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 one project is exempt from conformity requirements and three non-exempt projects was already included in the most recent approved air quality conformity, dated October of 2025.

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

106960 - DEL-Sunbury Parkway Phase B

Ref ID: 106960: 26-29 STIP

PID:	Project Name:	Primary Work Category:	Sponsoring Agency:	Air Quality Status:
106960	DEL-Sunbury Parkway Phase B	New Roadway	District 6-Planning	Non-Exempt (Analyzed)
ODOT Dist(s):	**Locale(s):**	**MPO(s) / RTPO(s):**	**Performance Measures:**	**List Type:**
06	DEL	MORPC	PHED, TTRI (Interstate)	Individual

Termini:
DEL IR71 from new interchange to 3B's & K Rd

Total Project Estimate:
$23,628,863

Description:
Construct IR 71 NB and IR 71 SB entrance ramps and extend Sunbury Parkway to 3B's & K Rd

TIP Project Comments:

Revision Reason:
Revise Project Data

Revision Comments:

TIP Phases:

Phase	STIP Fund Type	Prior Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	Future Years	Total	Revision Reason / Comments
RW	Major Programs	$ -	$ -	$160,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$160,000	Revise Funding - Amount, Source, and/or Year
	State	$ -	$3,903,135	$2,611,728	$ -	$ -	$ -	$6,514,863	
Total RW		$ -	$3,903,135	$2,771,728	$ -	$ -	$ -	$6,674,863	
Total		$ -	$3,903,135	$2,771,728	$ -	$ -	$ -	$6,674,863	

122127 - FRA Emerald Connector

Ref ID: 122127: 26-29 STIP

PID:	Project Name:	Primary Work Category:	Sponsoring Agency:	Air Quality Status:
122127	FRA Emerald Connector	New Roadway	Dublin, City of	Non-Exempt (Analyzed)
ODOT Dist(s):	**Locale(s):**	**MPO(s) / RTPO(s):**	**Performance Measures:**	**List Type:**
06	FRA	MORPC	PHED	Individual

Termini:
Emerald Parkway-Tuller Connector over IR 270

Total Project Estimate:
$28,852,340

Description:
Connector from Emerald Parkway to Tuller Road including a new structure over IR 270.

TIP Project Comments:
MTP ID: 1871
Bicycle and Pedestrian Components Included: Yes, shared-use path on both sides
Additional Project Information: This project includes a commitment of MORPC MPO Funding

Bike/Ped Options

Revision Reason:
Remove Project - Funding Related

Revision Comments:

TIP Phases:

Phase	STIP Fund Type	Prior Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	Future Years	Total	Revision Reason / Comments
CO	Discretionary / Earmark	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$3,000,000	$3,000,000	Remove Project - Funding Related
	MPO STBG	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$4,500,000	$4,500,000	
	Local	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$17,589,800	$3,762,540	$21,352,340	
Total CO		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$17,589,800	$11,262,540	$28,852,340	
Total		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$17,589,800	$11,262,540	$28,852,340	

126949 - DEL Sunbury Parkway Phase D

Ref ID: 126949: 26-29 STIP

PID:	Project Name:	Primary Work Category:	Sponsoring Agency:	Air Quality Status:
126949	DEL Sunbury Parkway Phase D	New Roadway	Sunbury, City of	Non-Exempt (Analyzed)
ODOT Dist(s):	**Locale(s):**	**MPO(s) / RTPO(s):**	**Performance Measures:**	**List Type:**
06	DEL	MORPC		Individual

Termini:
Sunbury Parkway from Wilson Rd to S Galena Rd.

Total Project Estimate:
$1,250,000

Description:
Extend Sunbury Parkway to the east from Wilison Rd. to S. Galena Rd. including modifications to S. Galena Rd.

TIP Project Comments:

Revision Reason:
Add Project

Revision Comments:

TIP Phases:

Phase	STIP Fund Type	Prior Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	Future Years	Total	Revision Reason / Comments
ENV	Discretionary / Earmark	$ -	$ -	$1,000,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$1,000,000	Add Project
	Local	$ -	$ -	$250,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$250,000	
Total ENV		$ -	$ -	$1,250,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$1,250,000	
Total		$ -	$ -	$1,250,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$1,250,000	

118101 - S2027 DCT Operating

Ref ID: 118101: 26-29 STIP

PID:	Project Name:	Air Quality Status:	List Type:	Total TIP Period Estimate:
118101	S2027 DCT Operating	Exempt	Individual	$862,510

Project Description:
5307 Operating assistance

Revision reason:

Revision comments:

TIP Project Comments:
MTP ID: 5, 200
Additional Project Information: None

Subaward: 27 300903 UTP DCT

Subaward Name:	Grantee Agency:	Grantee District:	Grantee County:	Grantee MPO:
27 300903 UTP DCT	Delaware County Transit Board	06	DEL	MORPC

Quantity:

Scope:
300-00 (Operating Assistance)

ALI:
30.09.01 (Operating Assistance up to 50% Federal Share)

Revision Reason:
Revise Funding - Amount, Source, and/or Year
Revise Subaward Data

Revision Comments:

Subaward Funding:

STIP Fund Type	Pro Rata %	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
5307	50.00%	$ -	$431,255	$ -	$ -	$431,255
State	50.00%	$ -	$431,255	$ -	$ -	$431,255
Total		$ -	$862,510	$ -	$ -	$862,510

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Mobility & Development Department Staff

DATE: 10/28/29

SUBJECT: Informational Items for the Community Advisory Committee

This previews the informational items for the upcoming Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The informational items section of the agenda requires no action by the CAC during the meeting. These items either provide information on a topic requiring future CAC action or describe an activity or topic of interest to the CAC related to our Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) transportation planning role.

MPO Funding Update
Final applications for new MPO Funding commitments were received on September 25. Twenty (20) applications were received from 13 different local agencies. The project activity categories were distributed in the following manner: 9 Roadway & Operational Changes, 5 System Preservation, 5 Bike & Pedestrian, and 1 Transit. The total commitment requests totaled just over $126.5M for approximately $78M in available funds from SFY 2027-2033. Draft evaluation scores have been presented to the MPO Funds Committee and are under their review. Draft funding recommendations will be determined in December and made available for public comment in early 2027 before moving forward for final recommendation in the spring.

Get Ready Initiative
Erin Grushon, Transportation Planning Director with Burgess & Niple, will provide an update on the Get Ready Initiative planning effort MORPC is conducting to study transportation needs in the 40-minute drive time ring around the Intel manufacturing site and related developments in New Albany's Advanced Manufacturing Business Park. The presentation will focus on the work completed to date including the transportation deficiencies analysis, geographic focus areas, and next steps as the project concludes this calendar year.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Ben Kessler
Chair

Laurie Jadwin
Vice Chair

Matthew Starr
Secretary