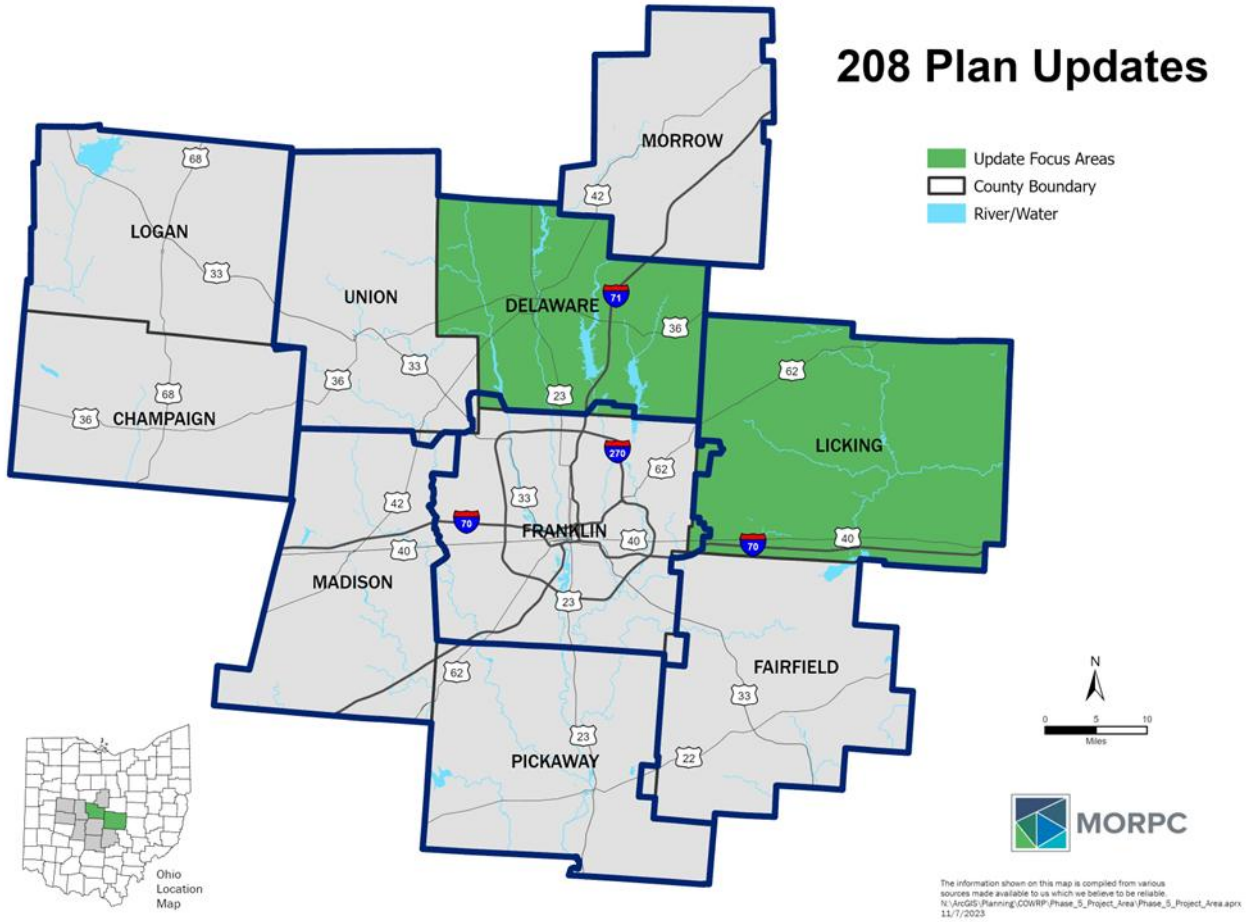
MORPC – OHIO EPA: A LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

- Partnership since 2017
- Inventory, map, & analyze existing conditions
- Evaluate projected needs to 2040
- Identify & map Designated Management Agencies (DMAs), wastewater treatment prescriptions & Facility Planning Areas (FPAs)
- Develop recommendations and best management practices
- Maintain plan
- Where disagreements cannot be resolved, the responsibility for dispute resolution has fallen to Ohio EPA

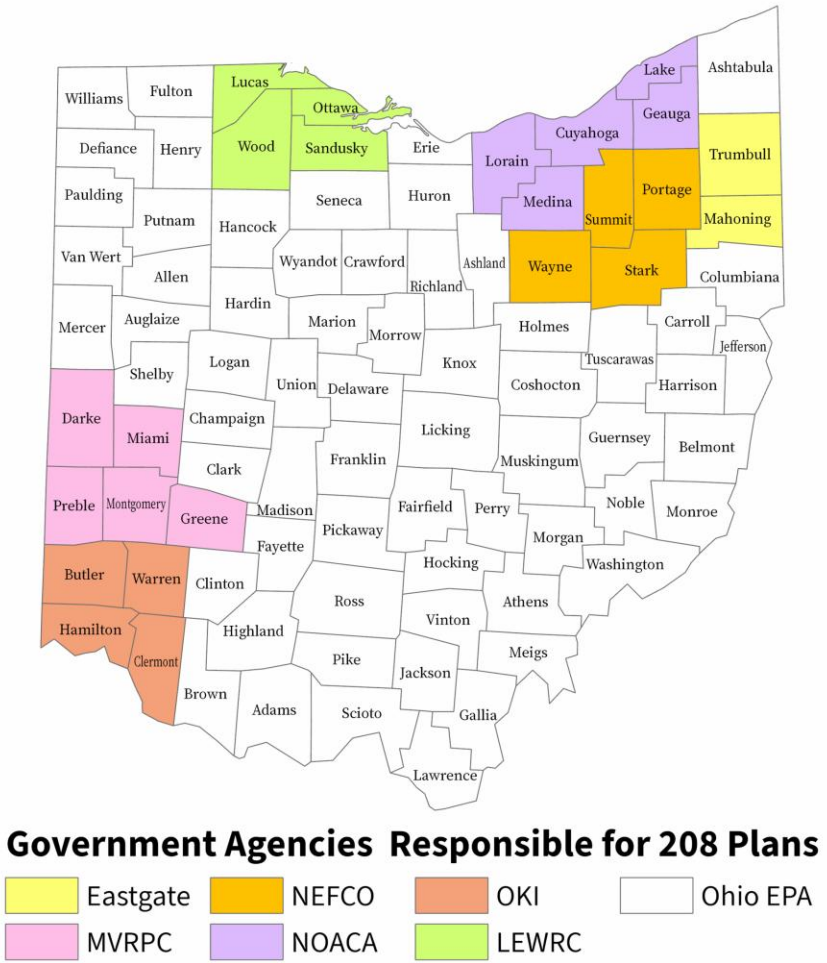
PREVIOUS 208 WORK



- Updated and confirmed Facility Planning Areas (FPAs).
- Special focus on updating maps and getting agreements in Delaware and Licking Counties due to growth pressures (ongoing).
- Generate a GIS data layer of central Ohio planning areas for online map.

THE NEED FOR A NEW AREAWIDE PLANNING AGENCY

- MORPC was approached in 2023 to evaluate becoming an areawide planning agency serving Central Ohio
- Several stakeholders, including local government officials, ODOD, ODNR, JobsOhio, and OBRT felt it was a disadvantage for the region and directed MORPC to quickly evaluate an expanded role as an areawide planning agency
- This would allow an approach crafted for the region, by the region to address their unique needs



MORPC AREAWIDE DESIGNATION PROCESS - AD-HOC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- **Purpose: Reviewed and made recommendations on MORPC's proposed approach for managing alterations to Facility Planning Area boundaries related to sewer service.**

- **General Membership: Elected officials and municipal staff, including those with water and wastewater technical expertise.**

Franklin County: Alana Shockey, Former Deputy Director, Regulatory Compliance and Sustainability and Jenean Weber, Assistant Director (Sustainability) Columbus Water & Power	Fairfield/Franklin County: Matt Peoples, City Administrator, City of Canal Winchester
Franklin County: Joe Stefanov, City Manager, City of New Albany	Union County: Jeremy Hoyt, Public Service Director, City of Marysville
Franklin County: Monica Dupee, City Manager, City of Westerville.	Pickaway County: Joe Allen, Village Administrator, South Bloomfield
Delaware County: Tracie Davies, County Administrator	Licking County: Mayor Mark Johns, City of Heath

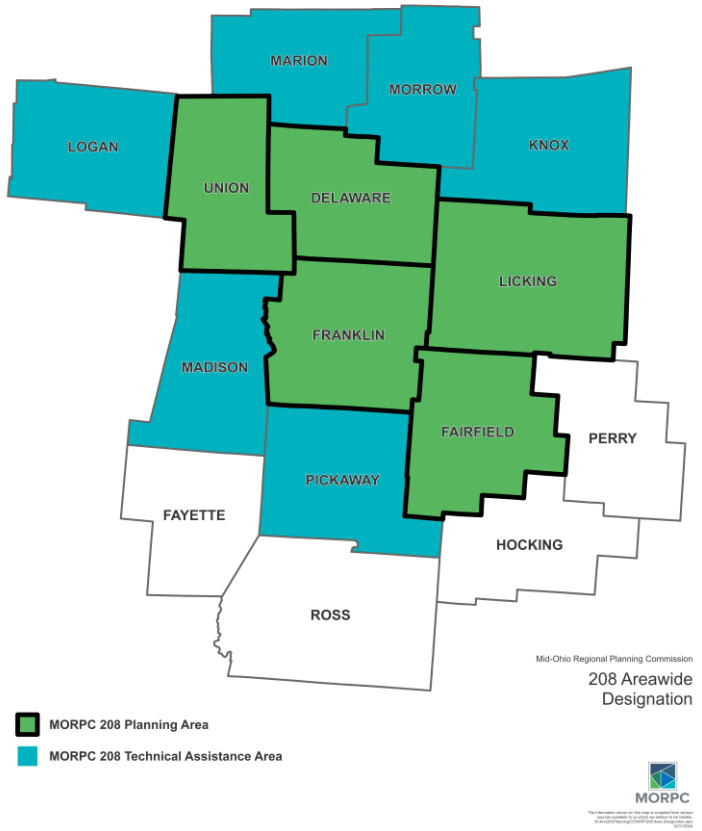
- **Chair: Tom Homan, Former Delaware City Manager**

208 PROCESS REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommended that MORPC pursue the state's 208 Areawide Planning Agency designation, contingent upon the following:

- MORPC secures sufficient funding for staff capacity to support an areawide planning agency;
- The Areawide Planning Agency is governed by policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the 208 Process Review Committee: and
- The Areawide Agency's governing body includes the 208 Process Review Committee's recommended representation.

Approved by the MORPC board in April 2025, conditioned on financial support and approval by Ohio EPA



MORPC 10/2026 PROPOSAL

An updated and expanded partnership instead of designation

OHIO EPA

Remains the areawide planning agency

Keeps all approval and regulatory authority under the 208 Plan, including decisions on facility planning area (FPA) modifications.

WHERE WE START

Stakeholder engagement, coordination, and FPA updates in Fairfield County, the priorities Ohio EPA's team recently discussed with us.

MORPC would provide expanded staff support and an enhanced engagement and advisory role:

- **Facility planning area mapping**
- **Regional stakeholder engagement and coordination**, including convening discussions to help resolve overlaps or related concerns
- **208 planning education and awareness**
- **Technical assistance** to communities and consultants
- **Regional plan narrative development**

Why this partnership matters

Our members value a strong, unified Central Ohio voice in 208 planning and support MORPC as regional convener and collaborator.

Drives investment and growth

Development pace is straining water and wastewater infrastructure. Coordination helps communities identify needs early and align growth with capacity and water quality goals.

A forum for regional collaboration

Brings communities, utilities, developers and consultants together across jurisdictions. With incentives like streamlined minor modifications, it reduces overlap and prevents disputes.

Ensures stakeholder representation

Our convening role gives local governments and regional partners a seat at the table, so decisions reflect a broad range of perspectives and priorities.

Supports proactive, coordinated planning

Reduces conflicts, clarifies planning responsibilities, addresses emerging infrastructure needs and promotes efficient use of public resources while protecting water quality.

Sets the region up for success

Builds the relationships, processes and track record Central Ohio needs, and positions the region to revisit areawide designation if the State and region choose.

PATH FORWARD

An extension bridges today's work to a longer-term agreement

Oct 22, 2026

Current grant ends

The existing grant agreement expires unless it is extended.

Through Apr 2027

Extension period

Fairfield County work begins without interruption, with monthly MORPC and Ohio EPA check-ins.

Apr 22, 2027

Longer-term agreement

Defines roles, deliverables, timelines and financial support, in place before the extension ends.

Future

Revisit designation

This approach positions the region to revisit areawide designation if the State and region choose.

Pair the partnership with process incentives

Reward communities that resolve potential overlaps or disputes early, so fewer contested modifications reach Ohio EPA and Central Ohio can move projects forward faster.