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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Representative Report to City Council

August 5, 2024

Highlights

MORPC Commission/Committee Meeting:

- MORPC will hold its monthly commission and committee meetings on Thursday, August 8, 2024. [More information here.](#)

Join the Public Policy Agenda Working Group:

- MORPC'S Government Affairs team is seeking MORPC members to participate on the 2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda Working Group. This group discusses key policy issues affecting Central Ohio local governments and produces our Public Policy Agenda, which guides our advocacy before the Statehouse and Congress.
- The PPA Working Group will meet monthly from July to September. Click the link to fill out an interest form. [More information here.](#)

MORPC Grant of the Month:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is awarding \$50,000-\$1 million in Broadband Technical Assistance Grants for eligible entities looking to promote broadband expansion into a rural community. No local match is required.
- Applications are due August 20, 2024. [More information here.](#)
- To seek more available funding opportunities as a MORPC member, make sure to visit the [Drive Investment Portal.](#)

Legislative Update:

- State lawmakers in both houses have passed a \$6.2 billion Capital Budget, HB 2, which includes appropriating over \$700 million in One-Time Strategic Community Investment Funds (OTSCIF). Over \$140 million in OTSCIF funding was appropriated for Central Ohio Projects.
- The Bill reappropriates nearly \$595 million for the Ohio Public Works Commission. It also imposes a 10% cap on annual funds that district public works integrating committees can give to political subdivisions seeking interest-free or low-interest loans under the State Capital Improvement Program.
- After passing HB 2, the Ohio Legislature is now in recess and won't be back in session until after the November election.

Money Mondays Archive & Upcoming Sessions:

- You can view previous MORPC “Money Mondays” with Regional Investment Officer, Dr. Todd Bradley, on the MORPC YouTube Channel [here](#). These sessions are an opportunity for members to learn more about key funding opportunities. To sign up for upcoming webinars, complete this [registration here](#). Upcoming Money Monday sessions include:
 - August 5 – Cheri Mansperger, Associate Director of Geospatial Analysis at MORPC – How members can benefit from G.I.S. data
 - August 12 - Mayor Christina Muryn, Findlay, OH – Federal Funding and Community Projects
 - August 19 - The Community Development Block Program
 - August 26 - OSU Office of Academic Affairs Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Reporting, Jay Johnson – Project Management

Upcoming Events

Social Media Summit:

Tuesday, August 6, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at MORPC (111 Liberty St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215)

- Save the date for MORPC’s annual Social Media Summit. This year’s Summit will focus on a variety of topics related to social media, including misinformation and compelling storytelling through social media. Registration is open and admission is free. [More information here](#).

Safe Streets Central Ohio: Creating Vibrant Communities:

Thursday, September 26 at MORPC at Wigwam Event Center (10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd. Pickerington, OH 43147)

- Safe Streets Central Ohio is an annual event hosted by MORPC in collaboration with key partners to highlight efforts throughout the region to reduce the number of traffic fatalities and severe injuries occurring on our roadways. This event provides an opportunity for local decision-makers, transportation professionals, and public health practitioners, advocates, and other partners to come together to share, learn, and network with a focus on transportation safety. [More information here](#).

Rural Forum: Zoning for the Future

Wednesday, October 23 at Perry County Opportunity Center (5454 SR-37, New Lexington)

- This forum is focused on how to start a zoning process in communities that have little to no zoning plans. Participants will learn why effective zoning programs help preserve valuable community assets while enabling leaders to plan for the future. Registration is free to MORPC members and lunch will be provided. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at the \$15 rate.
- A post event will be held in the Village of Somerset. Join Mayor Tom Johnson on the square of Somerset to hear his strategy for improving a community innovatively. For more information, please contact Eileen Leuby, MORPC Member Services Coordinator, eleuby@morpc.org