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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL June 15, 2026

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on **June 11, 2026**
- The Commission will next meet on **August 13, 2026**; the meeting will be live-streamed
- [The 2026 MORPC meeting calendar is attached.](#)

MORPC'S BILLS TO WATCH

1. House Bill 445 - Metropolitan Planning Organizations
2. Senate Bill 450 - Capital Appropriations for FY27-28
3. House Bill 646 - Data Centers
4. House Bill 292 - Establish the Ohio Defense Commission
5. House Bill 109 -Short-Term Rentals

[Read MORPC's full June legislative update here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

3 NEW MORPC MEMBERS:

1. Pleasant Township
2. Village of Commercial Point
3. Delaware County Public Health District

CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT:

- [Updating your cyber safety](#)
- [Daily air quality report](#)
- [The Age-Friendly Innovation Center](#)
- [Free residential weatherization services](#)
- [GOhio Commute sustainable travel options](#)
- [Insights Data Platform](#)

Need Assistance? Call 614-342-4090 Or Use Ohio Relay 7-1-1.



CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO:

- [New MORPC Podcast: Honoring Service & Strengthening Our Region: A Conversation with Colonel Powers](#)
- [All Sides Interview: Parag Agrawal discusses passenger rail initiatives on WOSU](#)

SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES

MORPC invites community members to share their insights. Below are some opportunities:

- [Linkus Public Meetings](#): Learn more about COTA's new Bus Rapid Transit corridor and share your thoughts – Next meetings June **20 and 22, 2026**, [to RSVP, click here](#).
- Share your projects, accomplishments, and priorities with MORPC at EconomicDevelopment@Morpc.Org.
- [See the results from the Leaders Listen Survey here](#).

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SENATE BILL 450 – CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2027–2028

To make capital appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028. Over \$43 million, including approximately \$22.1 million for Franklin County projects.

Current Status: Bill passed by both chambers of the General Assembly and sent to Governor DeWine for consideration. Bill includes \$100,000 for improvements to **Gahanna's Creekside**.

The largest Franklin County Awards include:

- Columbus Zoo Aquarium Renovation — \$2,000,000
- CAPA Central Presbyterian — \$1,750,000
- Ohio Life Science Training Center — \$1,500,000
- CAPA Ohio Theatre — \$1,100,000
- Columbus Museum of Art Improvements — \$1,000,000
- Prairie Township Sports Complex Amenities Project — \$1,000,000

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

- [Residential Development Revolving Loan Program](#)
- [Learn more about investment opportunities here](#)

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DRIVE INVESTMENT

- **BASICS Act**: Bipartisan bill for alignment between federal and regional priorities
- **Transformational Mixed-Use Development Program**: State tax credit program supporting mixed-use projects
- **Un-Sewered Area Assistance Program**: State funding of public sewer systems
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding for transportation**:
 - Commitment Updates Due: **July 10, 2026, by 5:00 PM**
 - Screening Applications Due: **July 17, 2026, by 5:00 PM**
 - Final Applications Due: **September 25, 2026, by 5:00 PM**

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY| JUNE 15

The LinkUS partners will host a groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the start of construction on the Hoover Road Pedestrian Bridge. [Learn more about the event here.](#)

MOBILITY EXCHANGE| JUNE 17

MORPC announced Rikesh Shah as keynote speaker for the inaugural **Mobility Exchange** at Vitria on the Square, bringing together transportation innovation and safety professionals for a one-day event. [Register here for the exchange.](#)

OTTERBEIN ADVANTAGE PROGRAM VIRTUAL INFO SESSION| JUNE 17

Learn about eligibility for affordability and tuition benefits for MORPC member affiliates. [Sign up for the virtual session here.](#)

OU VOINOVICH SCHOOL: MSSR VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE| JUNE 26

A virtual open house to discuss the fully online Master of Sustainability, Security and Resilience (MSSR) degree and graduate certificate programs offered through the Environmental Studies program. [Sign up for the virtual open house here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: OARC CANDIDATES FORUM | JULY 31

The Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) will host a forum at the Hilton Columbus Downtown featuring invited gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidates discussing transportation, infrastructure, and economic development priorities. [Register here for the forum.](#)

MORPC SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMIT| August 19

Communications professionals from across Central Ohio will explore the latest trends shaping social media today. [Sign up for the summit here.](#)

MORPC SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY | OCTOBER 28

MORPC will host its annual Summit on Sustainability at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

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MONEY MONDAYS

Every Monday from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., MORPC hosts **Money Mondays**, virtual presentations. These sessions are an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about key funding opportunities.

- [Click here to register for Money Mondays and be added to our calendar invite list.](#)
- [Click here to view the video archive of past Money Mondays webinars.](#)

MORPC SNAPSHOT



2026 MORPC State of the Region
Council & Planning Commission members with staff



2026 MORPC Interns
Council Office: Intern Caris Lantz (front & center)

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