



Trenton I. Weaver

Councilmember, Ward 4
Vice President of Council
trenton.weaver@gahanna.gov

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on September 11, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed.
- Upcoming Commission Meeting: October 9, 2025.

Members also reported progress on various other initiatives, including:

- **Transit, Mobility & Human Services** – Upgraded Gohio Mobility, revised 5310 Advisory Committee, prepared for Ohio Commuter Challenge (Sept. 8–21), and advanced LinkUS Mobility Initiative planning.
- **Active Transportation & Safety** – Progress on US-23 Pathways for People Study, Complete Streets reviews, and Safe Streets Central Ohio (Sept. 9); E Main Street Safe Systems Pilot recognized nationally.
- **Community Development** – COG Advisory Council (Sept. 17) to launch new trailhead “Gateways” initiative; Trail Towns pilot (2026) announced; released Environmental Sensitivity Index; housing workshops and STEPZ Workshop (Nov. 2025) planned.
- **Sustainability** – Adopted 2025–2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda; secured Ohio EPA funding as Areawide Planning Agency; welcomed Granville as 39th Sustainable2050 member; continued work on Charging Smart Cohort, CLEAN Air Monitoring Project, and Regional Water Study.
- **Data & Analytics** – Developing 2026–2029 Data Agenda; planning Data Day 2026; launched data visualization improvements and refined population estimates; Leaders Listen survey launches Sept. 30 at Summit on Sustainability.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Debate continues at the Ohio Statehouse on reducing property tax burdens, with possible action expected this fall. Lawmakers will be re-drawing Congressional districts, and new legislation regulating metropolitan planning organizations. [Read MORPC’s full September legislative summary here.](#)

MORPC Representative Report to City Council

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- [AIR QUALITY ALERTS](#)

MORPC continues to issue alerts during high-pollution days and partners with communities like Gahanna to reduce emissions. [Read more about air quality alerts here.](#)

- [GOHIO COMMUTE](#)

GOhio Commute continues to support regional workforce mobility through rideshare programs, vanpools, and emergency ride home services. Employers and commuters can learn more and participate in upcoming promotions this summer. [Learn more here.](#)

- [HOME REPAIR PROGRAM](#)

In partnership with MORPC, MORPC member city Westerville launched the Home Repair Program to provide grants of up to \$25,000 for critical repairs that improve safety, sustainability, efficiency, and accessibility in owner-occupied homes. MORPC supports the program with application review and project management. [Read more here.](#)

- [FREE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES](#)

MORPC provides no-cost home repair and energy efficiency (weatherization) programs to income-eligible Franklin County residents, offering services such as furnace repair, insulation, air sealing, and safety checks. Eligibility is based on household income or enrollment in programs like SSI, TANF, PIPP, or HEAP. [Read more and apply here.](#)

- [MORPC INSIGHTS DATA PLATFORM](#)

An interactive hub offering expertly curated, presentation-ready data, visuals, and tools on Central Ohio's transportation, sustainability, and housing trends, built for decision makers, planners, researchers, and the public. Check back regularly for new datasets, commentary, and downloadable resources. [Learn more here.](#)

- [OU VOINOVICH SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 12–1 p.m. (Virtual) – Ohio University's Voinovich School will showcase its Sustainability, Security, and Resilience certificate and master's programs. Employees of MORPC member governments receive a 15% tuition discount. [Learn more here.](#)

- [PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT](#)

Recent media coverage highlighted **Safe Streets Central Ohio**, the **Securing Our Energy Future series**, **Open Streets 614**, and the upcoming **Summit on Sustainability**. Press releases and articles are available at News – MORPC.org

- [SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS](#)

Switch Together Columbus is a group-buying program for solar and battery systems, open to Central Ohio residents. Registration is free and non-obligatory; interested residents can sign up to be notified when the program launches in their area. [Read more here.](#)

- **[STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ON DRAFT JOB QUALITY STANDARDS](#)**

The Regional Data Advisory Committee, with facilitation by MORPC, developed fact sheets outlining five dimensions of job quality, including: 1) living wage, 2) comprehensive benefits, 3) schedule predictability, 4) safety and security, 5) labor force participation. They also solicited key stakeholders for feedback, using insights to refine tools for use by workforce and economic development organizations, local governments, and employers supporting outcomes for workers and businesses. [Read more here.](#)

- **[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)**

MORPC invites partners to share ongoing projects, accomplishments, and future priorities to help build a competitive project pipeline for federal funding. Contact economicdevelopment@morpc.org to participate.

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **[DRIVE INVESTMENT](#)**

MORPC supports member communities in securing federal funding through tools like the [Drive Investment Portal](#) (curated funding notices and deadlines) and GrantFinder (a real-time database of grants). MORPC also partners on regionwide applications, including the [HUD PRO Housing Grant & Regional Housing Strategy](#), [USDOT SMART Grant](#), [USDOT Grants – LinkUS West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor](#), and [USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\)](#). Contact Eileen Leuby (eleuby@morpc.org) for more information.

At the September 11, 2025, Commission meeting, members reported drafts of the 2025 State Rail Plan are available, with final approval expected September 18, 2025. CORPO received eight applications and MORPC continues technical assistance with Grove City, Gahanna, Hilliard, and Galena. Clean Ohio Conservation Fund applications closed for Franklin County at the end of August. The CEDS Committee met on August 21, 2025, to review Job Quality Standards, CAP nominations closed in August.

- **[CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM](#)**

\$37.5M for open space acquisition and watershed protection; deadlines vary by district August-September 2025. [Read more here.](#)

- **[FY2025 DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM](#)**

\$1.447B for long-term economic recovery in federally declared disaster counties (2023–2024); Readiness and Implementation Paths have rolling deadlines, Industry Transformation Path closes March 3, 2026. [Read more here.](#)

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

- [REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY](#)

September 17, 2025 - MORPC launched the Regional Economic Development Academy in August, offering training on economic development tools and strategies. The next session focuses on the Fiscal Impact Analysis. [Register Here.](#)

- [Summit on Sustainability](#)

September 30, 2025 – Theme: Local Roots. Local Impacts – Features plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and the Regional Sustainability Awards. [Register for the Summit on Sustainability here. A list of breakout sessions is now available to browse at morpc.org/summit.](#)

MEMBER BENEFITS

MORPC offers members support through the Community-Based Planning Assistance and Planner Pool Programs, providing tailored planning and staffing help. The Consultant Services Program helps prequalify firms for community projects such as zoning, housing, and economic development plans; 2025 consultants have been identified.

Additionally, the 2025 Annual Salary and Fringe Benefit Survey, with 41 member participants, will be released in early September.

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.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

MORPC is accepting applications for key openings in transportation, planning, and finance. Details are available at [morpc.org/careers.](#)