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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL OCTOBER 20, 2025

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on October 9, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed.
- [Upcoming Commission Meeting: November 13, 2025.](#)

CITY OF GAHANNA 2025 RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The City of Gahanna received its annual Return on Investment Report (ROI) from MORPC. MORPC reported that for every **\$1** invested by the City of Gahanna in 2025 dues, the community realized an estimated **\$36 return** in value through programs, services, and leveraged regional resources. The 2025 ROI overview is attached. The report includes:

- A letter from William Murdock, AICP, Executive Director
- A summary sheet demonstrating positive returns
- An overview of MORPC's 2025 accomplishments

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 ROI MATERIALS

- **REGIONAL IMPACT & MEMBER VALUE**
MORPC's Transportation Improvement Program supported \$4.2 billion in regional projects. Technical assistance was provided to Gahanna and other member communities, supporting targeted development programs.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COLLABORATION**
Membership reached 90 local governments, reflecting continued regional growth and collaboration. MORPC launched the Regional Economic Development Academy and

refreshed the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) Program, aligning with U.S. EDA investment priorities to strengthen infrastructure, resilience, and innovation.

- **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE**

MORPC weatherized 400 homes and repaired 96 more, secured new healthy homes and weatherization grants through 2029, and expanded programs like Gohio Mobility and Gohio Commute, which saw a 76.9% increase in vanpool participation and a 62.7% rise in rideshare engagement.

- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION**

MORPC placed 50 interns across Central Ohio, leveraging \$200,000 in local government support and \$85,300 in scholarships. Members also benefit from educational partnerships with institutions such as Columbus State, OSU, Otterbein, and Denison Edge.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Debate continues at the Ohio Statehouse on redistricting and property tax, following new recommendations from the Governor's working group. Lawmakers are also considering several related bills, while federal budget negotiations have led to an ongoing government shutdown.

[Read MORPC's full October legislative summary here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **2025 SALARY SURVEY RESULTS**

MORPC's annual salary survey, featuring data from member governments, is now available. These results help organizations evaluate and align compensation structures across the region. [View 2025 salary survey results here.](#)

- **2026 SUMMER INTERN REQUESTS NOW OPEN**

MORPC member governments can host paid summer interns. A \$675 per-intern program fee covers training, mentors, and events; MORPC handles recruitment, screening, placement, and orientation. Hosts set schedules (16–40 hrs/week), may request multiple interns, and pay the hourly wage. Please contact Eileen Leuby (eleuby@morpc.org, 614-233-4135) or Alli Mancz (amancz@morpc.org, 614-233-4164) with questions.

- **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 supports regional workforce mobility through rideshare programs. [Employers and commuters can learn more about GOhio here.](#)

- **FREE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

MORPC provides no-cost home repair and 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 about MORPC weatherization and apply here.](#)

- **PODCAST: GROWING BETTER TOGETHER**

A new podcast explores how Central Ohio can grow better as it gets bigger. The first episode features Secretary Ray LaHood, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and longtime infrastructure advocate. [Watch on YouTube or listen wherever you get your podcasts.](#)

- **LEADERS LISTEN SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY**

MORPC and The Columbus Dispatch invite Central Ohio residents to share their views on regional sustainability issues through the latest Leaders Listen survey. [Share your input and the link with your neighbors!](#)

- **MORPC INSIGHTS DATA PLATFORM**

An interactive hub offering presentation-ready data and tools on Central Ohio's transportation, sustainability, and housing trends. Check back regularly for new data and downloadable resources. [Learn 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. [To request a letter of support from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission \(MORPC\) for your funding](#)

[opportunity application, please use the form linked here](#). Contact Eileen Leuby (eleuby@morpc.org) for more information.

- **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 about the disaster grant program here](#).

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

- **THE BIG TABLE: PASSENGER RAIL- CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, BUILDING THE FUTURE**

October 21, 11–2 p.m. – Join MORPC for The Big Table, a regional day of connection and dialogue. This year’s discussion focuses on passenger rail, exploring how renewed rail service can modernize mobility, connect communities, and drive economic growth across Central Ohio. [Learn more & register for The Big Table discussion here](#).

- **NORTHEAST AREA UPDATE**

October 22, 12–1:30 p.m. – MORPC invites local government representatives to its annual update. Officials and public service professionals will share regional planning updates on transportation, infrastructure, land use, economic development, and sustainability. [You can read more about this opportunity and register here](#).

- **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**

- November 6, 2025 – MORPC’s Regional Economic Development Academy will explore how rising housing costs affect Central Ohio’s economy and how communities can respond with strategic, equitable solutions. Register Here.
- December 17, 2025 – MORPC’s Academy Capstone will examine the pros and cons of Ohio’s economic development tools, including TIF, CRA, EZ, JEDD, and NCA, and how communities can use them to finance infrastructure and support sustainable growth. [Register for academy sessions here](#).

- **Pre-Commission Lunch featuring Derrick Clay, CEO, Columbus Chamber**

- Nov 13, 2025 – MORPC Board Members are invited to a luncheon featuring Derrick Clay, CEO of the Columbus Chamber. You can learn more by contacting Amanda McElDowney (amceldowney@morpc.org).

- **STRATEGIC TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING & ZONING (STEPZ) WORKSHOP**

- November 18, 2025 – A focused session to better understand zoning processes, development challenges, and strategies for managing sustainable growth. [You can learn more about the STEPZ workshop here](#).

MEMBER BENEFITS

MORPC's Community-Based Planning Assistance program helps member communities plan for the future through tailored support and resources. This service streamlines access to planning tools and expertise. [Complete the Assistance Request Form to discuss your community's needs and how MORPC can help.](#)

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. Details are available at morpc.org/careers.