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### MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 20, 2026

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#### 2026 MORPC MEETING SCHEDULE

[The 2026 MORPC meeting calendar is attached.](#)

#### MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on December 11, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed. [Click here for the meeting agenda.](#)
- The upcoming Commission meeting is anticipated for February 12, 2025.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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##### BRIGHTLINE WEST

MORPC led local leaders to Nevada to meet the President of Brightline West, a high-speed rail project. The agency advances passenger rail planning in Central Ohio and plans to pursue Federal Railroad Administration funding for future rail expansion. This includes both the 3C+D corridor (Cleveland–Columbus–Dayton–Cincinnati) and the Midwest Connect corridor (Chicago–Fort Wayne–Lima–Columbus–Pittsburgh).

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NEED ASSISTANCE OR AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT? CALL 614-342-4090 OR USE OHIO RELAY 7-1-1.

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## COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS RELEASED

A new slate of Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) were approved in December. This program highlights key regional infrastructure priorities for future investment opportunities. [Learn about CAP projects here.](#)

## GOHIO COMMUTE

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

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## FREE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

MORPC provides no-cost home repair and weatherization programs to income-eligible Franklin County residents. In 2025, nearly 400 homes in Franklin County received free weatherization improvements from MORPC. [Read more about MORPC weatherization and apply here.](#)

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## MORPC INSIGHTS DATA PLATFORM

[Click here to learn more about presentation-ready data and tools on Central Ohio's transportation, sustainability, and housing trends.](#)

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## PODCAST:

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### GROWING BETTER TOGETHER

A new podcast explores how Central Ohio can grow better as it gets bigger. *Growing Better Together* is available on YouTube or wherever you get your podcasts.

[Click here to listen to the most recent episode, where staff spoke with the Mayor of Mount Vernon about infrastructure and housing.](#)

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## 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, here.](#)

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## WINTER SAFETY AWARENESS

Part of winter safety includes early preparation for cold-weather hazards. Ohioans should assemble emergency kits, create safety plans, and practice winter-readiness measures. [You can learn more about how to prepare for winter here.](#)

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## KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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## CATALYZING OPPORTUNITY FOR CENTRAL OHIO

MORPC is supporting member communities in accessing new federal funding programs and advancing economic and community growth. [Click here to check out MORPC's DRIVE page for the latest funding opportunities.](#)

## UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

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### SCOOT SMART, CYCLE SAFE: MUNICIPAL BEST PRACTICES FOR E-BIKE SAFETY

**January 27, 2026** – MORPC will host a virtual session focused on electric bicycle safety best practices for local governments. [Learn more about this educational safety event here.](#)

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### OU MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY OPEN HOUSE

**January 30, 2026** - Ohio University will host a virtual open house on January 30, 2026, highlighting its online sustainability and resilience programs, with tuition discounts for member employees. [Learn more about OU's open house event here.](#)

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### DATA DAY 2026

**February 10, 2026** – *Data Day: People + Data = Inspired Futures*, will be at Columbus State Community College. This one-day event will convene 200+ participants on regional data and equity initiatives. [For more information on Data Day or to register, click here](#) or contact Padmini Roy-Dixon at [proydixon@morpc.org](mailto:proydixon@morpc.org).

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### CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS FORUM

**February 24, 2026** – MORPC will host a forum on the Central Ohio Greenways, a network of over 230 miles of trails connecting throughout central Ohio. The event will highlight the trails' role in recreation, transportation, and healthy, connected communities.

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### 2026 STATE OF THE REGION

**March 20, 2026** - The State of the Region will be held at the Hilton Columbus Downtown and will highlight Central Ohio's accomplishments and future priorities for regional leaders. [Learn more about the State of the Region here.](#)

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership services included visits to several communities and events. Below are listed other resources and initiatives.

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## COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING ASSISTANCE

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.

MORPC is now receiving 2026 prequalification applications, due February 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The program expanded to include new project types. [Learn more about the CAP program prequalification here.](#)

Members can learn more and request assistance from the program by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance> or through Juliana Silveira at [jsilveira@morpc.org](mailto:jsilveira@morpc.org).

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## CONSULTANT SERVICES PROGRAM

The program assists with Request for Proposal (RFP) document development, consultant prequalification, and proposal review for long-range planning projects. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.morpc.org/consultant-services-program/>. If you have an RFP you would like advertised, please contact [consultantservices@morpc.org](mailto:consultantservices@morpc.org) or Juliana Silveira at [jsilveira@morpc.org](mailto:jsilveira@morpc.org)

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## LEAP: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

MORPC is launching LEAP. This new tool will provide member governments with an additional technical assistance resource for economic and infrastructure development. [Learn more about LEAP here.](#)

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## PLANNER POOL PROGRAM:

Members may apply for additional planning, zoning, or sustainability staffing support by contacting Jessica Kuenzli. The MORPC is also developing a list of fixed-fee services commonly needed by Central Ohio communities.

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