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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 3, 2025

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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

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

- **COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS (CAP)**

MORPC received 33 project nominations from eight counties; final selections will be announced in December 2025. The program aligns projects with regional priorities, supports legislative advocacy, coordinates with MORPC programs, and helps communities leverage funding for implementation. You can contact MORPC at economicdevelopment@morpc.org with any questions.

- CEDS COMMITTEE

MORPC's Economic Development District received a \$70,000 EDA Partnership Planning grant to support short-term planning and the five-year update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

- MID-SCALE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

MORPC's Elise Sawicki, Funding and Infrastructure Coordinator, authored a peer-reviewed article in the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* examining partnership strategies that strengthen regional grain value. The study highlights how sustaining mid-scale farming networks are vital to Ohio's \$105 billion food and agriculture sector. This structure supports regional food security and economic diversity. [You can read Sawicki's article here.](#)

- 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.](#)

- **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.

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

MORPC hosted The Big Table on October 21st, a regional day of connection and dialogue. This year's discussion focused on passenger rail, exploring how renewed rail service can modernize mobility, connect communities, and drive economic growth across Central Ohio.

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **APPLY FOR THE COLUMBUS PARTNERSHIP'S CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITY LIST**

Communities pursuing state capital budget funding are advised to also submit projects to the Columbus Partnership's regional priority list, which is shared with the Ohio General Assembly to highlight regional projects. Submission is separate from the official state capital budget applications.

Applications are due Nov. 14, 2025, to publicpolicy@columbuspartnership.com.

- **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.](#)

- **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources offers up to 50% reimbursement for acquiring, developing, or rehabilitating public recreational areas. Applications are due Nov. 14, 2025. [Learn more about the Land and Water Conservation Fund here.](#)

- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)**

The Ohio Department of Transportation will reimburse up to 80% of construction costs for projects supporting non-motorized transportation, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation. Applications are due November 30, 2025. [Learn more about TAP here.](#)

- **UN-SEWERED AREA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Ohio Water Development Authority offers rolling grants for constructing public sewer systems in areas with failing septic systems, subject to available funding. [Learn more about the Un-Sewered program here.](#)

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

- **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.
- **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.](#)

For more information or questions, please contact Padmini Roy-Dixon at proydixon@morpc.org.

- **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.](#)

- **CALL FOR PROPOSALS – DATA DAY 2026**

MORPC’s annual Data Day will be held February 10, 2026, at Columbus State Community College, bringing together 200+ participants to explore regional data tools and initiatives. The Call for Proposals is now open for organizations interested in presenting. [If you are interested in submitting a proposal for Data Day, you can click 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.