



**Trenton I. Weaver**

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Vice President of Council

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## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Representative Report to City Council

November 18, 2024

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### MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- [November 14, 2024](#)
    - a. The MORPC Commission met on November 14, 2024, and covered a range of topics, including updates from the Executive Director, a legislative update, and reports from various committees such as the Regional Data Advisory, Sustainability, and Transportation Policy Committees.
    - b. The Village of Alexandria and City of Marion are joining MORPC as the 89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> members, respectively.
    - c. Gahanna's Director of Engineering named Vice Chair of the transportation Advisory Committee
  - Next meeting [December 12, 2024](#)
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### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Remembering Tom Johnson

MORPC mourns the loss of Mayor Tom Johnson of Somerset, a dedicated board member since 2015 who impacted Appalachian and Central Ohio through his commitment to growth and mentorship. A public tribute walk and memorial service will take place on Sunday, November 17, 2024, starting at the Old Perry County Courthouse and ending at Somerset Methodist Church.

#### November Legislative Update

1. **House Bill 315:** With MORPC advocacy, revises township law with minor updates and includes housing technical assistance funding; had its 1st hearing in Senate Local Government Committee on November 13, 2024.
2. **Senate Joint Resolution 4:** Proposes amending the Ohio Constitution to renew bonding authority for funding public infrastructure improvements; 1st hearing in Senate Finance Committee on November 12, 2024.
3. **House Bill 257:** Allows certain public bodies to conduct virtual meetings with specific policy requirements; 3rd hearing in Senate Government Oversight Committee on November 13, 2024.

4. **House Bill 79:** Permits electric utilities to create voluntary energy efficiency programs, pending PUCO approval; referred to Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee on November 12, 2024.
  5. Ohio legislators have returned for the "lame duck" session with limited time before year's end; the House has four session days remaining, and the Senate has three, with both chambers concluding on December 18, 2024.
  6. Governor Dewine is advocating for regulation of "diet weed" or unregulated hemp.
  7. View 2025-2026 Legislative Maps [here](#).
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### SPECIAL UPDATE WITH JO INGLES

Jo Ingles joins MORPC's Regional Policy Roundtable on November 21, 2024, to discuss election results, the Statehouse, and the lame duck session. The Roundtable will also adopt the 2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda. Guests should RSVP to Kyle Probert at [kprobert@morpc.org](mailto:kprobert@morpc.org).

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### MEMBER BENEFIT OF THE MONTH: EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

MORPC partnered with [Capital University](#) and [Columbus College of Art & Design](#) to offer educational discounts. Capital University offers an MBA for \$5,250 per year, and Columbus College of Art & Design offers Master's programs in UX and Retail Design for \$5,100 per year on a set schedule.

- [Learn More About MORPC's Educational Partnerships](#)
  - **2025 Summer Intern Program Accepting Requests**
    - MORPC helps members hire college interns for public sector projects, managing recruitment, screenings, orientations, and mentor pairings. Hosts provide hourly wages and can choose intern hours (16-40 per week). For more information, contact Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer at [eleuby@morpc.org](mailto:eleuby@morpc.org) or (614) 233-4135, or Alli Mancz, MORPC Intern Program Coordinator at [amancz@morpc.org](mailto:amancz@morpc.org) or (614) 233-4164.
    - [Request a 2025 MORPC Summer Intern](#)
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### DRIVE INVESTMENT

- [Subscribe to the Drive Investment Newsletter](#)
  - **Grant of the Month: ODOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Special Solicitation**
    - The Ohio Department of Transportation is seeking projects that improve walking and biking safety and accessibility, including plans, studies, data collection, education, promotion, and infrastructure. Learn more [here](#).
    - [Explore Funding Opportunities](#)
    - [Sign up for Money Mondays Webinars](#)
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sustainable 2050**
  - December 5, 2024, at 9:30am. Hybrid option available
  - Focusing on developing tree canopies

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- **STEPZ for Planning Officials: Strategic Training on Effective Planning and Zoning**
    - MORPC is hosting the STEPZ for Planning Officials workshop on November 19, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., offering planning and zoning insights to help officials better serve their communities. For more details about the training and to register click [here](#).
  - **Data Day 2025: Making Impacts through Trust in Data**
    - Data Day, on February 5, 2024, at Columbus State, focuses on data-driven decision-making, data use, governance, and visualization. Session proposals are due by November 30, 2024. Learn more, register, or submit a proposal [here](#).
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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 for members to ask questions and learn more about key funding opportunities.

- November 18 – Grants and Financial Reporting, Ohio Office of Budget and Management
  - December 2 – EPA \$58 Million for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants
  - December 9 – State and Federal Funding to Support Strategic Priority Projects
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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [LinkUs Newsletter](#)
  - [Workforce Mobility Solutions](#)
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