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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2026

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on **May 14, 2026**; the meeting was live-streamed: [Meeting Link](#)
- Pre-Commission panel discussion highlighted concerns for local governments and other potential issues related to data center construction.
- New MORPC executive board leadership:
 - Chair: Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley
 - Vice Chair: Laurie Jadwin, Mayor, City of Gahanna
 - Secretary: Matthew Starr, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon
- The Commission will next meet on **June 11, 2026**; the meeting will be live-streamed
- [Click here for more information on upcoming Commission meetings.](#)

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

A CLOSER LOOK

MORPC Legislation:

- **MORPC Welcomes Three New Members**
 - **Resolution 05-26:** Pleasant Township (Franklin County)
 - **Resolution 08-26:** Village of Commercial Point (Pickaway County)
 - **Resolution 06-26:** Delaware Public Health District
- **T-09-26:** Amends State Fiscal Year 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- **T-10-26:** Accepts the MORPC State Fiscal Year 2027 Planning Work Program
- **Resolution 07-26:** Authorizes the Executive Director to apply for and receive United States Department of Transportation and Ohio Department of Transportation funding
- **Resolution 09-26:** Authorizes an agreement with the City of Westerville for an additional \$1 million in home repair funding for owner-occupied homes.

Need Assistance? Call 614-342-4090 Or Use Ohio Relay 7-1-1.

MONTHLY Agency Report Summary

- **Data & Regional Planning:** The Regional Data Roundtable reviewed Data & Mapping updates and Leaders Listen survey results.
 - Take a look at the “map of the month” at datacentermap.com
- **Housing & Community Development:** MORPC continued regional housing outreach, advanced the Central Ohio Bike Map update, and expanded Trail Towns and Central Ohio Greenways initiatives.

MORPC’S BILLS TO WATCH

1. **House Bill 445** – Metropolitan Planning Organizations – 2nd Hearing
2. **House Bill 109** – Short-Term Rentals
3. **House Bill 292** – Establish the Ohio Defense Commission
4. **House Bill 646** – Data Center Study Commission – Referred to Senate
5. **House Bill 96** – State Operating Budget - Governor veto

[Read MORPC’s full May legislative update here; includes 2026 Primary recap.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tech Tip:** Learn how updating your router can help protect against cyber threats
- **Rail:** MORPC continues to explore passenger rail experiences and restore service to Ohio
- **All Sides Interview:** Listen to Parag Agrawal discuss passenger rail initiatives on All Sides with Amy Juravich on **WOSU Public Radio**
- **Air Quality Report:** Learn about daily forecasting and alerts
- **Age-Friendly Innovation Center:** Explore opportunities for older adults
- **Free Residential Services:** Learn about no-cost home repair and weatherization
- **Gohio Commute:** Explore sustainable travel options in your region
- **Insights Data Platform:** Explore MORPC's data platform
- **MORPC Podcast:** Find episodes on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Music, or [click here](#)

SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES

MORPC invites community members to share their insights. Below are listed just a few opportunities.

- **Linkus Public Meetings:** Learn more about COTA's new Bus Rapid Transit corridor and share your thoughts – Next meeting May 16, 2026, to RSVP, [click here](#)

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- **Tell Us More:** Share your ongoing projects, milestone accomplishments, and future priorities with MORPC at EconomicDevelopment@Morpc.Org.
- MORPC asks members to contact Congress regarding the [BASICS ACT](#) funding legislation.
- [See the results from the Leaders Listen Survey here.](#)

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DRIVE INVESTMENT

- [BASICS ACT:](#) Bipartisan bill for alignment between federal and regional priorities
- [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\):](#) Federal grant funding for projects to improve roadway safety; applications due **May 26, 2026**
- [Clean Ohio grant:](#) Funding available for green space acquisition and protection of river and stream corridors; Franklin County preliminary screeners due June 1, 2026
- [Transformational Mixed-Use Development Program:](#) State tax credit program supporting mixed-use projects
- [Un-Sewered Area Assistance Program:](#) State funding of public sewer systems

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

- [Ohio New Markets Tax Credit Program](#)
- [Climate Smart Communities Initiative 2026 Grants](#)
- [T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program](#)
- [Residential Development Revolving Loan Program](#)
- [Learn more about investment opportunities here](#)

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

MOBILITY EXCHANGE | JUNE 17

MORPC announced Rikesh Shah as keynote speaker for the inaugural **Mobility Exchange** at Vitria on the Square, bringing together transportation innovation and safety professionals for a one-day event. [Register here for the exchange.](#)

VILLAGE FORUM: LEADING TOGETHER | JULY 8

This forum will connect village leaders to discuss best practices in regional planning, economic vitality, infrastructure improvement, and public service management.

SAVE THE DATE: OARC CANDIDATES FORUM | JULY 31

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The Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) will host a forum at the Hilton Columbus Downtown featuring invited gubernatorial and U.S. Senate candidates discussing transportation, infrastructure, and economic development priorities.

STEPZ 2026 | JULY 29

Subject matter experts will gather for practical discussions on community development.

OHIO CONFERENCE ON FREIGHT | AUGUST 24–26

Save the date for this statewide conference at the Hilton Columbus Downtown focused on freight and logistics.

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.](#)



MORPC Meeting 2026