



**Karen J. Angelou**

Councilmember At-Large  
[karen.angelou@gahanna.gov](mailto:karen.angelou@gahanna.gov)

---

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

June 2, 2023

---

### MORPC Highlights:

- **Gohio Mobility Website Launch** – MORPC has announced the launch of [Gohio Mobility](#), a website aimed at improving access to affordable transportation for residents and visitors. This is a free service that users can search for transportation options and filter by location, payment type, and accommodations such as wheelchair-accessible vehicles. **See Media Release below.**
- **Air Quality Alert Issued for June 1 and 2 in Central Ohio** – MORPC has issued an air quality alert for Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking counties, as this area is likely to experience ground-level ozone pollution levels that are unhealthy for sensitive groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI). Active children, the elderly, people with asthma and COPD are more likely to suffer an increase in severity of symptoms during an Air Quality Alert. **See Media Release below.**

### Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

- *Thursday, June 8 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*  
**MORPC Commission Meeting** – MORPC's board of commissioners determines the strategic direction of the agency. Local government members appoint elected officials and staff to serve as their representatives to the commission. All meetings are open to the public. [More information here.](#)
- *Thursday, June 15 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.*  
**Enriching Lives at Today's Modern Library** - Join us for a discussion on how libraries are providing dynamic tools and creative spaces to promote life-long learning in our communities. Learn how libraries are planning for the future and adapting to changing consumer preferences. Find out how these new benefits add to the positive sense of place and community appeal. Learn how local governments and other partners can augment these efforts. Donna Zuiderweg, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), will provide an overview of the evolving services at CML's newest branch in Gahanna. [More information here.](#)
- *Monday, June 26 from 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*  
**Money Mondays: Affordable Housing** – Recent years have seen extraordinary investments from the federal government, creating new funding possibilities for local governments of all kinds. To keep our members updated and create new pathways for our members to take advantage of these funds, MORPC's Regional Investment Officer, Dr. Todd Bradley is hosting weekly, topical meetings. [More information here.](#)

**Media Contact:**

**Melissa Rapp**

*Public Information Manager*

Office: 614.233.4187

Mobile: 614.428.7277

Email: [mrapp@morpc.org](mailto:mrapp@morpc.org)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### NEW GOHIO MOBILITY WEBSITE, A ONE-STOP RESOURCE FOR ALL OHIOANS TO ACCESS TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS, LAUNCHED TODAY

*Visit [Gohiocommute.com/#/mobility](https://gohiocommute.com/#/mobility) to Search for Mobility Options in Your Area*

**[Columbus, OH – June 1, 2023]** – The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) announced the launch of Gohio Mobility – a website aimed at improving access to accessible and affordable transportation for residents and visitors alike.

Gohio Mobility is a free, comprehensive, statewide platform that brings together various modes of transportation. Users can search for transportation options using filters for location, payment type, and accommodations such as wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

“The hope is that this new website will empower individuals, particularly those in need of accessible transportation, to see the transportation options in their area and save time for transportation users, caregivers, and service providers,” said MORPC Mobility Coordinator Emma Strange.

The website was developed out of a partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). Mobility managers across the state will be regularly updating the website and available to assist users.

“This mobility platform is the first step in making sure individuals of urban, suburban, and rural areas have a place to find transportation services in their community,” said Transit and Mobility Manager John Gardocki. “Individual cars are not the solution for everyone, and we must have open data access to critical transportation services for all Ohioans.”

To learn more, contact your local mobility manager about Gohio Mobility or update the information for your transportation provider. You can find your mobility manager on <https://gohiocommute.com/#/mobility> by clicking the “Find a Mobility Manager” button.

###

**Media Contact:**

**Melissa Rapp**

*Public Information Manager*

Office: 614.233.4187

Mobile: 614.428.7277

Email: [mrapp@morpc.org](mailto:mrapp@morpc.org)

# Air Quality Alert Issued for June 1 and 2 in Central Ohio

*Air Pollution Levels Expected to be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*

**[COLUMBUS, OH, June 1, 2023]** - The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is issuing an Air Quality Alert for today and tomorrow. The region – Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking counties – is likely to experience ground-level ozone pollution levels that are Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) scale. Today's AQI is forecasted to be 101, and Friday's is expected to be 108.

A ridge of high pressure aloft will move westward across the Great Lakes, limiting atmospheric mixing in Central Ohio. Furthermore, light northeasterly winds will hinder dispersion and transport a thin plume of wildfire smoke and associated ozone precursors into the region, while sunny skies and highs in the upper-80s to low-90s enhance ozone formation. Therefore, AQI levels will be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on Thursday, June 1, and Friday, June 2.

This Saturday, an increase in moisture and light to moderate north-northeasterly winds will bring a slight reduction to ozone development in the Columbus region; however, with warm temperatures continuing and pollutant carryover from previous days, AQI levels will remain moderate. Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy skies will limit ozone formation, while periods of northerly to northeasterly winds aid dispersion. However, temperatures in the low-80s each day will support ozone formation, yielding moderate AQI levels on both days.

MORPC uses the national AQI scale to inform the public about daily ozone and particle pollution levels in Central Ohio. The AQI scale runs from 0-500 – the higher the AQI value, the greater the health concern. When levels reach above 100, air quality is considered Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, and MORPC issues an Air Quality Alert to the public.

Active children, the elderly, and people with asthma and COPD are more likely to suffer an increase in the number and severity of symptoms during an Air Quality Alert. To decrease the potential for health issues, sensitive groups are urged to limit prolonged outdoor activity or plan outdoor activities for the morning. Those who are experiencing breathing difficulties should consult their doctor. More information on the health effects of ozone pollution is available from the U.S. EPA at [AirNow](https://www.airnow.gov).

**The public can receive free Air Quality Alert notifications directly by email or sign up by visiting [www.morpc.org/airquality](https://www.morpc.org/airquality).**

On Air Quality Alert days, MORPC recommends taking actions to improve air quality. Most of the ozone pollution created in Central Ohio comes from cars and trucks. Information about transportation options can be found online at <https://morpc.gohio.com/> or contact MORPC at 1.888.742.RIDE (7433) for more information. When everyone pitches in, our communities breathe better air.

1. Explore your commute options with Gohio Commute: <https://morpc.gohio.com/>
2. Turn off your engine instead of idling your vehicle to cut down on vehicle emissions.
3. Avoid refueling your vehicle or wait until dusk to refuel your vehicle. Filling up your tank when the daytime heat has diminished helps to reduce harmful ground-level ozone pollution.
4. Avoid topping off your tank at the gas station. Spilled gasoline pollutes the air when it evaporates.

5. Avoid mowing your lawn or using other gas-powered lawn equipment on an Air Quality Alert Day. Longer grass in your yard is good for the air and water quality.

Visit <http://morpc.org/airquality> for more information about MORPC's Air Quality Program. Call MORPC's toll-free hotline for the latest air quality forecast at 1-888-666-1009. English and Spanish options are available.