



**Trenton I. Weaver**

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## MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)

### REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

July 6, 2026

#### MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on **June 11, 2026**
- The Commission will next meet on **August 13, 2026**; the meeting will be live-streamed
- [The 2026 MORPC meeting calendar is attached.](#)

#### MORPC'S BILLS TO WATCH

1. **House Bill 445** - Metropolitan Planning Organizations - Under consideration
2. **Senate Bill 450** - Capital Appropriations for FY27-28 - Signed into law by the Governor
3. **House Bill 646** - Data Centers - Passed the House, advances to the Senate
4. **House Bill 292** - Establish the Ohio Defense Commission - Passed both chambers
5. **House Bill 109** - Short-Term Rentals - Under consideration

[Read MORPC's full June legislative update here.](#)

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

##### UPDATES

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##### COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS (CAP) PROGRAM | AUGUST

MORPC received 13 project nominations in May 2026. Selected projects will be announced in August following approval by the Central Ohio Economic Development District Board.

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##### COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) | AUGUST

MORPC working groups developed action plan goals and strategies across five priority areas. The full CEDS committee will review the draft Action Plan in August. [Learn more about CEDS.](#)

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##### STAFF

MORPC welcomed Economic Development Intern Rose Plottel, a Kenyon College student majoring in Economics and International Studies.

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

### CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT:

- [Updating your cyber safety](#)
- [Daily air quality report](#)
- [The Age-Friendly Innovation Center](#)
- [Free residential weatherization services](#)
- [GOhio Commute sustainable travel options](#)
- [Insights Data Platform](#)

### CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO:

- [MORPC Podcast: Honoring Service & Strengthening Our Region](#)
- [All Sides Interview: Parag Agrawal discusses passenger rail initiatives on WOSU](#)

### SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES

MORPC invites community members to share their insights. Below are some opportunities:

- Share your priorities with MORPC at [EconomicDevelopment@Morpc.Org](mailto:EconomicDevelopment@Morpc.Org).
- [See the results from the Leaders Listen Survey here.](#)

### KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### SENATE BILL 450 – CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2027–2028

Governor Mike DeWine signed the state capital budget, providing approximately \$43 million in community project funding for 137 projects across central Ohio. Many projects were supported through MORPC and the Columbus Partnership's annual capital budget priorities.

- **Current Status:** Signed into law by Governor DeWine.
- [Review approved projects here.](#)

### MORE OPPORTUNITIES

- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) - July 23, 2026 \(deadline\)](#)
- [Community Waste Reduction Grant - August 7, 2026 \(deadline\)](#)
- [Ohio Energy Efficiency Program \(OEEP\) – Implementation Funds - Rolling](#)
- [Historic Preservation Pipeline Initiative - Rolling; July 1 \(open\)](#)
- [Economic Development Program – Rolling; July 1 \(open\)](#)
- [Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees - Rolling](#)
- [Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program - Rolling](#)
- [Residential Development Revolving Loan Program](#)
- [Learn more about investment opportunities here](#)

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## DRIVE INVESTMENT

- [BASICS Act](#): Bipartisan bill for alignment between federal and regional priorities
- [Transformational Mixed-Use Development Program](#): State tax credit program supporting mixed-use projects
- [Un-Sewered Area Assistance Program](#): State funding of public sewer systems
- [Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\) funding for transportation](#):
  - **Commitment Updates Due**: July 10, 2026, by 5:00 PM
  - **Screening Applications Due**: July 17, 2026, by 5:00 PM
  - **Final Applications Due**: September 25, 2026, by 5:00 PM

## UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION CONSULTATION DAY | JULY

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Ohio Representative, Lee Shirey, will meet with central Ohio communities at MORPC to discuss projects aligned with federal EDA funding. Communities can request consultation through Elise at [Esawicki@Morpc.Org](mailto:Esawicki@Morpc.Org).

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY RETURNS | July 6

Registration opens July 6, 2026, for MORPC's next Regional Economic Development Academy, featuring courses on incentive negotiation, responsible data center development, housing, community engagement, and economic development.

### SMART GROWTH AMERICA COMMUNITY CONNECTORS | July 17

Smart Growth America is accepting applications through July 17 for its 2026–2027 Community Connectors program, supporting communities in reconnecting neighborhoods, improving roadway safety, and advancing long-term infrastructure solutions.

[Learn more about Smart Growth here](#) | [Community Connectors Application](#)

### SAVE THE DATE: OARC CANDIDATES FORUM | JULY 31

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

### MORPC SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMIT | AUGUST 19

Communications professionals from across Central Ohio will explore the latest trends shaping social media today. [Sign up for the summit here](#).

### OHIO CONFERENCE ON FREIGHT | AUGUST 24–26

Public and private sector leaders from across the United States and Canada will discuss freight transportation, multimodal infrastructure, and economic development. [Freight conference registration](#)

### MORPC SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY | OCTOBER 28

MORPC will host its annual Summit on Sustainability at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

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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 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 SNAPSHOT



2026 MORPC State of the Region  
Council & Planning Commission members with staff



2026 MORPC Interns  
Council Office: Intern Caris Lantz (front & center)

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