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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)

REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 17, 2025

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on November 13, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed. [Click here for the November 13, 2025, meeting packet.](#)
- [Upcoming Commission Meeting: December 11, 2025.](#)

The Commission approved the Village of Baltimore as a new member (Res. 18-25) and adopted a mid-year revision to the 2025 operating budget (Resolution 19-25). The Commission approved amendments to the SFY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Res. T-14-25) and the SFY 2026 Planning Work Program (Res. T-15-25). The Commission also authorized application for a \$200,000 Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant to support regional mobility planning (Resolution 20-25), and received updates on sustainability initiatives, and regional data efforts.

A CLOSER LOOK

- TRANSIT, MOBILITY & HUMAN SERVICES

MORPC convened LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) working groups to finalize 2026 policies, managed \$1.7 million in Section 5310 applications, launched the Fall Commuter Challenge, and began developing the 2026–2030 Regional Mobility Plan.

- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Work advanced on the Central Ohio Cycling Guide, the Building Landscapes of Opportunity & Mitigation (BLOOM) green-infrastructure initiative, and regional housing workshops supporting the Regional Housing Strategy.

- SUSTAINABILITY

Nearly 600 participants attended the 19th Summit on Sustainability themed *Local Roots. Lasting Impacts*. MORPC is working closely with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on achieving the Areawide Planning Agency designation, updated Sustainable2050 programs, and continued Electric Vehicle (EV) charger repairs through a \$2 million U.S. DOT-FHWA (United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and its Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) award.

- DATA & ANALYTICS

The Regional Data Roundtable met October 29, 2025; working groups progressed on cybersecurity (reviewing HB 96 mandates), workforce, and accessibility analyses, and MORPC published 2025 population estimates on MORPC Insights data hub.

- TRANSPORTATION

MORPC and partners submitted \$625,000 in local funding to advance Midwest Connect passenger rail, supported Bloom Township's growth plan, and finalized Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) funding recommendations totaling \$2.4 million.

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MORPC prepared for the 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update and hosted an academy session on using comprehensive plans to manage growth.

- FEDERAL COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

MORPC supported Indian Lake recovery efforts and helped finalize the ten-county Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) with a regional inventory and equity analysis.

- LEGISLATION & ACTIONS

- **Resolution 18-25** – Admitted Village of Baltimore as MORPC member effective 1/1/26.
- **Resolution 19-25** – Approved mid-year revision to 2025 budget (\$24.5 million total).
- **Resolution T-14-25** – Amended the (State of the Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program.
- **Resolution T-15-25** – Amended the SFY 2026 Planning Work Program.
- **Resolution 20-25** – Authorized application for a \$200,000 Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant to support regional mobility plan development.
- Approved October 9 Commission Meeting Minutes.

MORPC Representative Report to City Council

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

State lawmakers reached an agreement on new congressional maps, and deliberations continue on several property tax measures. At the federal level, lawmakers approved a deal to end the nation's longest government shutdown. [Read MORPC's full November legislative summary here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- [2025 SALARY SURVEY RESULTS](#)

MORPC's annual salary survey, featuring data from member governments, is now available. [View 2025 salary survey results 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. 268 homes in the county received free weatherization improvements this year! [Read more about MORPC weatherization and apply here.](#)

- [Midwest Connect Passenger Rail Corridor Advancing to Step 2](#)

MORPC, the City of Fort Wayne, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission committed \$650,000 in local funds to advance the Midwest Connect Passenger Rail Corridor. Approximately \$400,000 of the match was contributed by Ohio communities to support the Chicago–Columbus–Pittsburgh route. [Learn more here.](#)

- [MORPC INSIGHTS DATA PLATFORM](#)

An interactive center offering presentation-ready data and tools on Central Ohio's transportation, sustainability, and housing trends. [Learn more here.](#)

- [PODCAST: GROWING BETTER TOGETHER](#)

A new podcast explores how Central Ohio can grow better as it gets bigger. [Watch on YouTube or listen wherever you get your podcasts.](#)

- [Residential Economic Development District \(REDD\) Grant](#)

The Ohio Department of Development released guidance for the new REDD Grant Program, which supports residential development in communities within 20 miles of major economic projects that have adopted pro-housing policies. [Learn more about the Program here.](#)

Key Dates:

- November 19, 10 a.m. – Informational Webinar
- December 16, 10 a.m. – Application Opens
- January 16, 5 p.m. – Application Closes

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **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. [Please use this form to request a letter of support.](#) Contact Eileen Leuby (eleuby@morpc.org) for more information.

- **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.](#)

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

- **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. [Learn more here.](#)

- **Ohio University Master of Sustainability, Security & Resilience – Virtual Open House**

December 2, 2025 – Ohio University will host a virtual open house from 12–1 p.m. to share information about its online Master of Sustainability, Security, and Resilience and related certificate programs. MORPC member employees receive a 15% tuition discount. [You can learn more about Ohio University's program webinar.](#)

- **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**

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 here.](#)

- Data Day 2026

February 10, 2026 – Data Day 2026 will be at Columbus State Community College, which will convene 200+ participants on regional data and equity initiatives. [Learn more and register.](#) 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.](#) For more information or questions, please contact Padmini Roy-Dixon at proydixon@morpc.org.

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 Request Form to discuss your community's needs.](#)

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.](#)