



**Trenton I. Weaver**  
Councilmember, Ward 4  
Vice President of Council  
[Trenton.Weaver@Gahanna.Gov](mailto:Trenton.Weaver@Gahanna.Gov)

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)  
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 15, 2025

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2026 MORPC MEETING SCHEDULE

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

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on December 11, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed. [Click here for the meeting agenda.](#)
- The upcoming Commission meeting is anticipated for February 12, 2025.
- Village of Centerburg joined MORPC.

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A CLOSER LOOK

TRANSIT, MOBILITY & HUMAN SERVICES

The team advanced mobility coordination, addressed resident requests, and promoted Gohio Commute at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The 5310 Working Group recommended \$1.78 million in federal funding for projects serving older adults and people with disabilities. A new Delaware-Columbus vanpool launched, and the Fall Commuter Challenge cut more than six tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

FINANCE UPDATES

The 2026 Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (ICAP) is under review by the ODOT, and the 2026 agency budget is ready for Commission consideration.



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## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY

The working group met to review local mobility plan updates in Gahanna and Columbus, setting its 2026 schedule. MORPC and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 6 held the final U.S. Route 23 "Pathways for People" workshop to identify priority connections. Staff joined the Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board (FCTFRB) and evaluated 2026 Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) applications for safety impacts.

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Advisory Council reviewed project updates, funding opportunities, and 2026 Regional Trail Vision changes. The MORPC is supporting communities implementing the COG Wayfinding Strategy, beginning with the City of Hilliard. Trail Towns of Central Ohio invited six communities to a 12-month onboarding cohort offering branding, marketing, technical assistance, and mapping support. The Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee, paused this summer and plans on resuming meetings soon. The MORPC continues housing engagement and is accepting requests for community housing and growth workshops. Contact Jessica Kuenzli for more information ([jkuenzli@morpc.org](mailto:jkuenzli@morpc.org)).

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## SUSTAINABILITY

The next Regional Sustainability Roundtable on December 17, 2025. Recent sessions featured updates from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) the Central Ohio Water Advisory Council (COWAC), and the Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG).

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## DATA & ANALYTICS

The MORPC advanced work across several groups, including HB 96 cybersecurity implementation, Data Day 2026 planning, multimodal accessibility analysis with the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA), and workforce fact sheets.

The agency received a \$55,000 Columbus Foundation grant for MORPC Insights Phase 2 and began updating existing Insights content.

The final fall webinar on the Community Information Exchange concluded, focused on the Community Information Exchange initiative.

The Ohio State University (OSU) Master of Translational Data and Analytics program capstone project continued to improve county data standardization and identify government-owned parcels.

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## TRANSPORTATION

The MORPC advanced 2026 Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Technical Coordinating Committee policies as the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) prepares for a vote, on December 10, 2025.



The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) moved the Midwest Connect passenger rail project to Step 2, with Service Development Plan work beginning in early 2026. The Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) awarded \$2.44 million for State Fiscal Years 2026–2027 and is completing its Functional Classification Review with local jurisdictions.

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#### PERSONNEL UPDATES

A new Transportation Improvement Program Manager joined MORPC in November 18, 2025. Recruitment continues for a Sustainability Senior Planner, Associate Modeler, and Energy Auditor. The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

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#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Technical Assistance** - Team members continue supporting Grove City, Gahanna and the Village of Galena through their technical assistance projects. Staff are reviewing program guidelines and related MORPC services to better align offerings with member needs.
- **Infrastructure** - The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund drafted scores and rankings for District 3 State Fiscal Year 2027 State Capital Improvements Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program. The rankings will be considered for approval by the Public Works Integrating Committee (PWIC) in December.
- **Strategy** - The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee began its strategy update, approving bylaws, setting milestones, and refining data needs. The MORPC evaluated Competitive Advantage Project (CAP) nominations.
- The agency also hosted an **Economic Development Academy** session on housing and is launching the Local Economic Assistance Program (LEAP) to support communities in securing economic development resources. Registration is open for the final course, covering the pros and cons of economic development tools, on December 17, 2025.

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#### LEGISLATION & ACTIONS

- **Resolution 22-25** - Accepting the Village of Centerburg as a member of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- **Resolution 23-25** - Acceptance of the fiscal budget and fund account appropriations for the operation of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2026
- **Resolution 24-25** - Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to administer the Joint Columbus and Franklin County Housing Advisory Board for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026



- Resolution EDD-1-25 - Adopting the Bylaws of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

## LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

[Read MORPC's full November legislative summary here.](#)

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### GOHIO COMMUTE

*GOhio Commute* supports regional workforce mobility through rideshare programs. [Employers and commuters can learn more about GOhio here.](#)

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### 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.](#)

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### 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 about passenger rail here.](#)

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### MORPC INSIGHTS DATA PLATFORM

[Click here to learn more about presentation-ready data and tools on Central Ohio's transportation, sustainability, and housing trends.](#)

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### PODCAST:

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#### GROWING BETTER TOGETHER

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

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#### CONFLUENCE CAST

MORPC Executive Director William Murdock joined Tim Fulton on the Confluence Cast to discuss LinkUS implementation, the potential impact of passenger rail, and how communities can manage rapid growth with limited resources. [View \*Confluence Cast\* here.](#)



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## REGIONAL CYCLING GUIDE

Help shape the new cycling guide! MORPC and *Central Ohio Greenways* are updating the regional bikeways map and creating a new 15-county Cycling Guide. They want public input to help shape routes and improve the trail-user experience. [All community members are encouraged to share their thoughts here.](#)

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## SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

*Switch Together Columbus* is a group-buying program for solar and battery systems, open to Central Ohio residents. Registration is free and non-obligatory. [Interested residents can sign up to be notified when the program launches in their area, here.](#)

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## WINTER SAFETY AWARENESS

Part of winter safety includes early preparation for cold-weather hazards. Ohioans should assemble emergency kits, create safety plans, and practice winter-readiness measures. [You can learn more about how to prepare for winter here.](#)

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## UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

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### 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 REDD here.](#)

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#### KEY DATES:

- December 16, 10 a.m. – Application Opens
- January 16, 5 p.m. – Application Closes

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### 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 for the academy here.](#)

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### 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. [For more information on Data Day or to register, click here](#) or contact Padmini Roy-Dixon at [proydixon@morpc.org](mailto:proydixon@morpc.org).



## MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership services included visits to several communities and events. Below are listed other resources and initiatives.

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### COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING ASSISTANCE

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.](#) Members can also learn more and request assistance from the program by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance> or through Juliana Silveira at [jsilveira@morpc.org](mailto:jsilveira@morpc.org).

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### PLANNER POOL PROGRAM:

Members may apply for additional planning, zoning, or sustainability staffing support by contacting Jessica Kuenzli. The MORPC is also developing a list of fixed-fee services commonly needed by Central Ohio communities.

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### CONSULTANT SERVICES PROGRAM

The program assists with Request for Proposal (RFP) document development, consultant prequalification, and proposal review for long-range planning projects. Prequalified consultants for 2025 were identified, and members may request support or advertise RFPs through the program. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.morpc.org/consultant-services-program/>. If you have an RFP you would like advertised, please contact [consultantservices@morpc.org](mailto:consultantservices@morpc.org) or Juliana Silveira at [jsilveira@morpc.org](mailto:jsilveira@morpc.org).

## 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.](#)