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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL August 3, 2026

MORPC MEETINGS

- The Commission last 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 staff met with Mayor Jadwin and myself in Gahanna for the annual member visit on July 22, 2026.
- The 2027-2028 Public Policy Agenda working group met on July 28, 2026. The working group is chaired by Whitehall Mayor Bivens. You can read the [2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda](#).

MORPC'S BILLS TO WATCH

1. **House Bill 445** - Metropolitan Planning Organizations – 3rd hearing in House Local Government Committee
 2. **House Bill 646** - Data Centers – Recommended to Senate Energy Committee
 3. **House Bill 292** - Establish the Ohio Defense Commission – **Signed into law by the Governor**
 4. **House Bill 47** – Omnibus (including Public Records Law)- Effective 9/23/2026
- [Read MORPC's full July legislative update here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

UPDATES

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.

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



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.](#)

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: At the Center of Growth: A Regional Perspective with Mayor Groomes](#)
- [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.
- [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. [Review approved projects here.](#)

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

- [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](#)

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- [Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program - Rolling](#)
- [Residential Development Revolving Loan Program](#)
- [Learn more about investment opportunities here](#)

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

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY SESSION #1 | AUGUST 4

A training program designed to enhance foundational knowledge of economic development tools and programs. Participants will learn from practitioners and specialists to better understand economic development strategies and how to use the knowledge to support their communities. [Register here.](#)

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.

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.](#)

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MORPC SNAPSHOT



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



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