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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- The Commission met on August 14, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed.
- [Upcoming Commission Meeting](#): September 11, 2025.
- MORPC Welcomes New Board Officers and Executive Committee Members
At its August 14, 2025, annual meeting. The MORPC Board reelected Dublin Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes as Chair, elected Bexley Mayor Ben Kessler as Vice-Chair, and Gahanna's own Mayor Laurie Jadwin as Secretary (all terms expiring in 2026).

New Executive Committee members include Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix, Upper Arlington City Manager Steve Schoeny, and Columbus Public Service Director Kelly Scocco (terms expiring in 2027). MORPC thanked outgoing Vice-Chair Michelle Crandall and Executive Committee member Kristen Atha for their service. [Read more here.](#)

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- [Read MORPC's August legislative summary here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- [AIR QUALITY ALERTS](#)

MORPC continues to issue alerts during high-pollution days and partners with communities like Gahanna to reduce emissions. [Read more about air quality alerts here.](#)

- [AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD](#)

MORPC received the Ohio Auditor of State Award with Distinction for its 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, recognizing excellence in financial reporting, transparency, and accountability. [Read more here.](#)

- [COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS \(CAP\)](#)

The relaunched Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) program helps Central Ohio communities attract investment to strategic projects. [Project Nomination Forms](#) are due by August 31, 2025. [Read more here.](#)

- [GOHIO COMMUTE](#)

GOhio Commute continues to support regional workforce mobility through rideshare programs, vanpools, and emergency ride home services. Employers and commuters can learn more and participate in upcoming promotions this summer. [Learn more here.](#)

- [FREE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES](#)

MORPC provides no-cost home repair and energy efficiency (weatherization) programs to income-eligible Franklin County residents, offering services such as furnace repair, insulation, air sealing, and safety checks. Eligibility is based on household income or enrollment in programs like SSI, TANF, PIPP, or HEAP. [Read more and apply here.](#)

- [HOME REPAIR PROGRAM](#)

In partnership with MORPC, MORPC member city Westerville launched the Home Repair Program to provide grants of up to \$25,000 for critical repairs that improve safety, sustainability, efficiency, and accessibility in owner-occupied homes. MORPC supports the program with application review and project management. [Read more here.](#)

- [REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY](#)

MORPC launched the Regional Economic Development Academy on August 7, 2025, offering training on economic development tools and strategies. The next session, Fiscal Impact Analysis, takes place September 17, 2025. [Register Here.](#)

- [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. [Read more here.](#)

- [Stakeholder Feedback on Draft Job Quality Standards](#)

The Regional Data Advisory Committee, with facilitation by MORPC, developed fact sheets outlining five dimensions of job quality, including: 1) living wage, 2) comprehensive benefits, 3) schedule predictability, 4) safety and security, 5) labor force participation. They also solicited key stakeholders for feedback, using insights to refine tools for use by workforce and economic development

organizations, local governments, and employers supporting outcomes for workers and businesses. [Read more here.](#)

- [SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

MORPC invites partners to share ongoing projects, accomplishments, and future priorities to help build a competitive project pipeline for federal funding. Contact economicdevelopment@morpc.org to participate.

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM](#)

\$37.5M for open space acquisition and watershed protection; deadlines vary by district August-September 2025. [Read more here.](#)

- [FY2025 DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM](#)

\$1.447B for long-term economic recovery in federally declared disaster counties (2023–2024); Readiness and Implementation Paths have rolling deadlines, Industry Transformation Path closes March 3, 2026. [Read more here.](#)

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

- [Emerging Energy Technologies Forum](#)

August 27, 2025, OSU – MORPC’s Energy Forum Series concludes with a fourth session highlighting emerging technologies to strengthen energy resilience and open new economic opportunities for Central Ohio communities.

- [Pre-Commission Lunch with Derrick Clay](#)

November 13, 2025, 12–1:15 p.m. – Columbus Chamber CEO Derrick Clay will share his vision for driving growth and prosperity in the Columbus Region.

- [Safe Streets Central Ohio](#)

September 9, 2025, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. – Wigwam Event Center – Annual event bringing together partners to reduce roadway fatalities and severe injuries, share best practices, and inspire collaboration. [Register Here.](#)

- [Summit on Sustainability](#)

September 30, 2025 – Theme: Local Roots. Local Impacts – Features plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and the Regional Sustainability Awards. [Register Here.](#)

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 for members to ask questions and learn more about key funding opportunities.

**Money Mondays is currently on summer break and will return in the fall.*

[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.](#)