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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Representative Report to City Council

July 7, 2025

MORPC Board of Commissioners Meeting

- The Commission met on **June 12, 2025**. The meeting was live-streamed.
 - [Upcoming Commission Meeting](#): August 14, 2025
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News Highlights

- **Upcoming events:**
 - **Funding and Resource Opportunities to Build Your Energy Stack**, MORPC Office on July 10, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00. Register [here](#).
 - **Social Media Summit: Talk of the Town: Bold Strategies for Local Voices**. MORPC Office on August 5, 2025. Register [here](#).
 - **Emerging Energy Technologies and Future-Proofing the Region**, MORPC Office on August 27, 2025. Register [here](#).
 - **2025 Summit on Sustainability**: Join regional leaders to explore sustainability solutions, attend sessions, and celebrate award-winning efforts. – September 30, 2025 [Read more and RSVP here](#).
 - Full listing of MORPC events available [here](#).
- **June Legislative Update** available [here](#).
- **Economic Development Academy**: MORPC launched a new training program to help local leaders learn more about economic development. The Academy is open to anyone—no pre-requisites required. Learn more and register [here](#).
- **CEDS Committee Update**: The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee marked its one-year anniversary in May. Members discussed local survey results, Intel's "Get Ready Initiative," and a new economic development map. A case study on housing and school enrollment in Sunbury was also shared. The next meeting is in August.
- **Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)**: MORPC's CAP program will re-launch next month. More updates will be shared soon.

- **MORPC Insights Platform:** MORPC launched a new tool to explore trends in demographics, housing, transportation, and more. It includes maps, charts, and data for easy use. Click [here](#) to explore.
- **Economic Development Web Map:** MORPC released a new [web map](#) showing major economic development projects alongside approved transportation projects.
- **Job Opportunity:** MORPC is looking for an Economic & Community Development Specialist. Learn more and apply at morpc.org/careers.
- **Rickenbacker Freight & Business Updates:** MORPC hosted a focus group to hear from Rickenbacker area businesses about freight, transit, and workforce needs. A related Freight Alliance workshop on May 28 included updates from local, state, and federal partners.
- **Funding Opportunities:** MORPC shared several new grants:
 - [JobsOhio Small Business Grant](#)– Up to \$50,000 for B2B businesses
 - [FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program](#) – \$1.4B for long-term recovery in disaster-declared counties
 - [Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program](#) – \$37.5M for open space and watershed projects
 - [ArtsRISE](#) – Up to \$5,000 for nonprofit arts programs serving underrepresented communities
- **Rural Forum, Local Economic Vitality:** MORPC’s next Rural Forum is July 23, 2025, [Learn More and Register](#).
- **Summit on Sustainability:** MORPC’s annual environmental conference is on September 30, 2025. This year’s theme, Local Roots. Local Impacts., highlights community ties to energy, air, water, and trails. The event includes plenary sessions, breakouts, and the Regional Sustainability Awards. [Register Now](#)
- **Air Quality Alerts:** MORPC will continue to notify residents when air pollution levels are high in Central Ohio. They also work to make the air in Central Ohio safer to breathe. Learn more and sign up [here](#).
- **Columbus Outdoor Trail Pass:** Explore Central Ohio’s trails with the Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass, hike, bike, paddle, and earn rewards while discovering new outdoor adventures! [Read more](#).
- **Economic Development:** MORPC’s Economic Development efforts support regional prosperity by engaging members, driving investment, and providing resources to advance local initiatives. [Read more](#).
- **Funding and Resource Opportunities to Build Your Energy Stack:** Learn how communities can access key local, state, and federal funding tools to support affordable, resilient energy projects. Some programs include: PACE, CRA, TIF, and IRA/BIL programs. – July 10, 2025. [Read more and RSVP here](#).
- **MORPC Commute Action Fund:** Companies in MORPC’s 15-county region can receive up to \$5,000 in matching funds for sustainable commuter benefit programs. Rolling deadline [Read more at morpc.org](http://morpc.org).
- **Passenger Rail News:** Sign up for quarterly updates on passenger rail and receive the first newsletter this spring! [Read More](#).

- **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program:** A \$5B federal grant program supporting local, Tribal, and regional efforts to eliminate roadway deaths through a Safe System Approach. Nearly \$2B in funding remains available through 2026. – Ongoing opportunity. [Read more here.](#)
 - **Share Your Story and Priorities with MORPC:** Share your development projects and priorities with MORPC to be featured in the *Drive Investment* newsletter. Contacts: tbradley@morpc.org, economicdevelopment@morpc.org.
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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 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.](#)
