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

June 16, 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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MORPC Program 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](#).
- Pre-Commission Luncheon: featured a conversation with Jason Hall, CEO of the Columbus Partnership.
- June Legislative Update available [here](#).
- **Air Quality Alerts**: As summer rolls in, MORPC will continue to notify residents when air pollution levels are high in Central Ohio and how to protect your health and your loved ones. They also work to make the air in Central Ohio safer to breathe through education and by working with local governments and businesses to reduce health-impacting emissions. Learn more and sign up [here](#).
- **MORPC WINS NARC REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**: MORPC Executive Director William Murdock, board members, and staff were honored at the 2025 National Association of Regional Councils' Annual Conference for our work on Transit Supportive Infrastructure planning as part of LinkUS. Awards recognize the best regional planning and project delivery initiatives in the country.

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- **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.](#)
 - Economic Development District
 - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 - Competitive Advantage Projects
 - Brownfield Redevelopment
 - Freight Planning
 - Drive Investment Portal
 - Economic Development Administration Resources
 - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 - Additional MORPC Funding Resources
 - Drive Investment Newsletter
- **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.](#)
- **NatureWorks Grant:** Local governments can apply for up to \$150,000 per county to support public park and recreation projects. – Apply by June 2, 2025. [Read more at ohiodnr.gov.](#)
- **ODOT Small Cities Program:** [Designated small cities](#) can apply for up to \$2 million for transportation improvements like pavement rehab, roundabouts, and safety upgrades. – Apply by June 15, 2025, [Read more here.](#)
- **ODOT Township Safety Sign Program:** Townships can apply for up to \$50,000 to improve roadway safety with new signs and hardware. – Apply by June 6, 2025, [Read more here.](#)
- **Passenger Rail News:** Sign up for quarterly updates on passenger rail and receive the first newsletter this spring! [Read More.](#)
- **Planning Energy Resilience for a High-Demand Future:** MORPC is launching a series of forums and workshops to help communities plan for a stronger, more resilient energy future. – June 5, 2025 [Read more.](#)
- **Rural Forum - Mobility & Workforce Development:** This forum explores strategies to expand commuting options and workforce pipelines for emerging industries, featuring experts, interactive sessions, and a keynote lunch. – June 17, 2025 [Read more and RSVP here.](#)
- **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.

- **Member Benefit of the Month:** MORPC added Columbus State Community College to their educational partnerships, expanded grant-writing and post-award management services, and introduced a free Cyber Security Kit.
- **Two Resolutions Approved by the MORPC Commission to Highlight**
 - Proposed Resolution 11-25: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) for the 2025 Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) and to enter into related subcontracts”
 - Proposed Resolution 12-25: “Authorizing the executive director to submit an application to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for CDBG funding for the Home Repair Program and enter into such agreement if funded”

News Highlights

- **Columbus Region Coalition Endorses Community Projects:** Nineteen local projects totaling nearly \$60 million were endorsed for federal funding, supporting healthcare, education, workforce, and infrastructure. – More updates coming soon.
- **Local Leaders Explore Passenger Rail in Texas:** MORPC led a delegation to the Dallas–Fort Worth region to learn how collaborative transit investments, like passenger rail, drive growth and development.
- **MORPC Insights Platform:** Launched in May 2025, this new tool offers local leaders streamlined access to data on key regional issues from MORPC’s Data and Mapping team. – Click [here](#) to explore.
- **MORPC Visits D.C. for Infrastructure Week:** MORPC met with Senator Husted and USDOT to highlight how infrastructure investments support economic growth and workforce connectivity.
- **Regional Water Study Results:** MORPC and Ohio EPA release findings on Central Ohio’s water resources and planning for sustainable growth, now available with an interactive map and dashboard. – View the study on the [Ohio EPA website](#).
- **U.S. House Advances Reconciliation Bill:** The House passed a package proposing to repeal key Inflation Reduction Act grants and tax credits, including those for clean energy and EV infrastructure. – Summary and full text available [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.

- June 16: Preston Frick, Grants Coordinator, MORPC. Regional Economic Development Academy
- Note: June 20 – July 3 (No Money Mondays)
- July 7: Capital Budget update (Kyle Probert) or Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program, Jennifer Hufford, Small Government Administrator, OH Public Works Commission
- July 14: Jeremy Faust, Vice President Director of Environmental Sustainability, Fifth Third Bank Foundation
- July 21: Mayor Laurie Jadwin, Gahanna. Funding and local projects

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[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.](#)
