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

*January 21, 2025*

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**MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

- The Commission did not meet in January.
  - [The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025.](#)
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**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- **DATA DAY: LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER**
  - Data Day is an opportunity to learn more about what the region is doing to promote data-driven decision-making and how various communities are using data, securing and governing data, and visualizing data. [Learn more and register here.](#) [View full program here.](#)
- **2025 STATE OF THE REGION**
  - Mark your calendars for the 2025 State of the Region, to be held on Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. During the State of the Region MORPC will highlight community accomplishments and showcase plans for leading the region into the future. Join the region's top political, business and civic leaders at the year's premier event. [Registration is open. Secure your tickets today.](#)
- **WEATHERIZATION SERVICES**
  - Did you know that MORPC provides free weatherization services to income-eligible residents in Central Ohio? Customers can access repairs or replacements of furnaces and water heaters, insulation, air sealing, and more. As temperatures drop, access this critical resource to keep warm and safe in your homes this winter. [Learn more here.](#)
- **2025 SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM ACCEPTING REQUESTS**
  - MORPC provides members with the opportunity to secure talented college students in a variety of majors to complete projects and gain practical work experience in the public sector. MORPC coordinates the recruitment and screening process, orientation, mentor pairings, and supplemental activities, while hosts provide intern(s) an hourly wage. Hosts can request multiple interns and choose how many hours they prefer their intern(s) to work, ranging from 16 to 40 hours a week. [For more information, contact Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer at \[eleuby@morpc.org\]\(mailto:eleuby@morpc.org\) or \(614\) 233-4135, or Alli Mancz, MORPC Intern Program Coordinator, at \[amancz@morpc.org\]\(mailto:amancz@morpc.org\) or \(614\) 233-4164.](#)

MORPC Representative Report to City Council

- i. The Council Office hosted MORPC intern Charlie Schneider this past Summer.
  - **GOVERNING ESSENTIALS FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**
    - Ohio University's Voinovich Academy is accepting applications for its Governing Essentials, an introductory course that promotes a high-level understanding of topics essential to effective service at the municipal, township and county levels. Classes begin Friday, Feb. 28, 2025. [Learn more here.](#)
  - **DRIVEOHIO RFI ON EV INFRASTRUCTURE**
    - The State of Ohio is being allocated approximately \$140 million through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program. *DriveOhio* is currently soliciting ideas for potential projects or programs, including ideas for rural charging, cybersecurity, fleet electrification, airport charging, workforce development, and more. Responses are due Jan. 17. [Learn more.](#)
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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- **GRANT OF THE MONTH: USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**
    - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for its Rural Business Development Grants. These grants promote economic development and job creation, funding business and community projects in rural areas, including feasibility studies, leadership training, long-term business planning, and more. [Learn more.](#)
      - i. [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\)](#)
      - ii. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#)
      - iii. [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#)
  - **DRIVE INVESTMENT PORTAL**
    - [Visit the Drive Investment Portal for more opportunities.](#)
  - **OVER \$12 MILLION IN RAISE GRANTS COMING TO CENTRAL OHIO**
    - Two Central Ohio applications for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant were successful, it was announced last week. These are the first grants from this program to be awarded in Central Ohio since 2012.
  - **SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES**
    - MORPC requests stories of ongoing projects and future priorities be shared with them, to help build a competitive pipeline of projects and leverage federal funding. [Mail to: economicdevelopment@morpc.org.](mailto:economicdevelopment@morpc.org)
  - **SHARE YOUR STORY WITH MORPC**
    - Do you have a project you are proud of that you would like to share with the region? [Send a narrative of your project to MORPC's Regional Investment Officer, Dr. Todd Bradley \(tbradley@morpc.org\) to be featured in a future Drive Investment newsletter.](#)
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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.

- Jan. 20: No Meeting - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- **Jan. 27:** FY 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants
- **Feb. 3:** 2025 AARP Community Challenge Grant - Jenny Carlson, AARP Ohio
- **Feb. 10:** Energy and Environmental Policy: State and Federal Legislation and the Impact on Municipalities and Counties - Tony Long, Ohio Chamber Of Commerce

[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.](#)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NORTHWEST AREA UPDATE LUNCHEON**
    - **Wednesday, Jan. 22, 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Jerome Township Administrative Office**  
MORPC will convene local governments in and around the Northwest side of the metro area to work collaboratively on short- and long-range community planning. Ideal participants include public officials, local government staff and community partners with responsibilities for transportation, development, community planning and sustainability. [Register here.](#)
  - **OHIO UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY, SECURITY, AND RESILIENCE VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**
    - **Online: Friday, Feb. 22, 12 to 1 p.m.**  
Join this virtual open house to discuss the online Master of Sustainability, Security and Resilience degree and environmental studies graduate certificate programs at Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service. Participants can learn about the curriculum, ask questions, and meet Environmental Studies Director Dr. Natalie Kruse. [Register today.](#)
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- **MORPC SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED PROJECTS**
    - The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has released a proposed list of new transportation projects to receive more than **\$52 million** in federal funds from state fiscal years (SFYs) 2026 to 2031. MORPC is seeking public feedback on the proposed projects through Feb. 12, 2025. [Learn more here.](#)