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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 16, 2026

2026 MORPC MEETING SCHEDULE

[The 2026 MORPC meeting calendar is attached.](#)

MORPC Board of Commissioners Meeting

- The Commission met on February 12, 2026. The meeting was live-streamed.
- The upcoming Commission meeting planned for March 12, 2025.
- MORPC was awarded the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (37th year in a row)
- MORPC representatives traveled to DC recently, including our own Mayor Jadwin, to meet with Members of Congress, staff, and advocate for the region.
- Map of the Month - Future Land Use - depicts standardized parcel level existing and future land use based on local plans. Publicly available at morpc.org/data - "m.o.o.d."
- Regional Policy Roundtable: SB 361 introduced by Sen. Tim Schaefer - would prohibit eminent domain being used for trails/multiuse paths.

[Click here for more information on upcoming Commission meetings.](#)

A CLOSER LOOK

MORPC LEGISLATION:

- **Resolution 01-26:** Accepts Norwich Township (Franklin County) as a member
- **Resolution 03-26:** Accepts Hamilton Township (Franklin County) as a member
- **Resolution 02-26:** Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the United States Department of Transportation to receive and execute *Fiscal Year 2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All funding*

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- **Resolution T-02-26:** Adopts the 2026 Public Participation Plan
- **Resolution T-01-26:** Amends the State Fiscal Year 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- **Resolution T-03-26:** Delegates authority to make air quality conformity determinations

MONTHLY AGENCY REPORT SUMMARY

- **Transit, Mobility & Human Services:** Staff advanced outreach for Ohio Loves Transit Week (Feb. 16-20), and goal-setting for Regional Mobility Plan.
- **Active Transportation & Safety:** Staff advanced the U.S. Route 23 “Pathways for People” plan and update to the Central Ohio Active Transportation Plan.
- **Regional Housing Strategy:** MORPC is accepting requests for customized housing and growth workshops.
- **Data & Mapping:** MORPC’s Regional Data Roundtable and working groups focused on artificial intelligence policy impacts and preparation for Data Day 2026 (held last week)
- **Technical Assistance Program:** Continued 2025 technical assistance work with Gahanna and Grove City and launched the [Local Economic Assistance Program \(LEAP\)](#) to support community economic development efforts.

COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING ASSISTANCE

- Planner Pool Program
- Consultant Services Program: Request for Proposal (RFP) development
- Support of immediate development and planning needs
- 2026 Consultant Prequalification Program

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- State lawmakers are back in Columbus preparing for the state capital budget. Federal officials finalized most Fiscal Year 2026 budget bills, securing more than \$20 million in community project funding for Central Ohio. [Catch up on MORPC’s full February legislative highlights here!](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gohio Commute Winter Challenge:** Helps commuters and employers explore sustainable travel options. [Through March 27th click here for a chance to win gift cards when you log trips during this Winter Challenge.](#)
- **Free Residential Services:** MORPC provides no-cost home repair and weatherization programs to income-eligible Franklin County residents. 268 homes in the county received free weatherization improvements in 2025! [Read more about MORPC weatherization and apply here.](#)

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- **Public Engagement:** Links to press releases and news articles available at: <https://www.morpc.org/news/>.

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

Senator Husted has released an application form for FY 27, with a deadline of March 9, 2026. Guidance from other Congressional members is expected soon. [Click here to learn more about FY 27 application.](#)

STATE CAPITAL BUDGET GUIDANCE

State capital budget applications are due March 12, 2026, and MORPC is available to assist members with the process. Contact Kyle Probert (kprobert@morpc.org) for assistance.

SWOT ASSESSMENT: REGIONAL ECONOMY

MORPC seeking input for the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis supporting its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. [Click here to take the survey by February 26th.](#)

DRIVE INVESTMENT

- **Corridor Identification and Development (CID) program:** passenger rail planning and federal funding coordination
- **Grants:** MORPC partners with local and federal agencies on several grant opportunities
- **Supportive Infrastructure:** Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and LinkUS Transit
- **Transportation safety initiatives:** Including Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation, launching Coalition for Integrated Roads User Safety (CIRUS)
- **State and federal infrastructure funding coordination:** Ohio Public Works Commission (OWPC), Clean Ohio, Transportation Review Advisory Council
- **Economic development strategy:** Competitive Advantage Projects, and leadership training - [Competitive Advantage Projects \(CAP\) Program](#)
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** launched update process

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY MBA SESSION | FEBRUARY 18 OR FEBRUARY 24

Capital University will host virtual sessions on its Summer 2026 Master of Business Administration cohort, with discounted tuition available for Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission member

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government employees. Register for the sessions by clicking the following links: [February 18th session](#) / [February 24th session](#).

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS FORUM | February 24

Forum highlighting the Central Ohio Greenways trail network and its role in recreation, transportation, and healthy, connected communities. [Learn more about the Greenways forum here.](#)

OU MASTER OF SUSTAINABILITY, SECURITY & RESILIENCE| March 2

Learn about Ohio University's online sustainability and resilience programs; employees of MORPC member governments receive a 15% tuition discount. [Sign up here for the OU Open House!](#)

STATE OF THE REGION | FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Premier annual event highlighting regional plans and achievements. Keynote speaker Greg Lindsay, an urban innovation leader and founding chief communications officer of AlphaGeo, will share insights on artificial intelligence. [Click here to learn more about the 2026 State of the Region.](#)

2026 DISASTER RECOVERY | TBD

MORPC is partnering with the Franklin County Data Center to schedule the 2026 Disaster Recovery tabletop exercise

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.](#)

Personnel Updates

NEW TEAM MEMBERS AT MORPC

- Human Resources Director Tessia Haymaker
- Senior Planner (Sustainability) Laura Quicerno Waltero
- Energy Auditor Bryan Cassley

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OPEN POSITIONS

- Associate Modeler
- Economic Development Intern
- MODE Transportation Intern
- Summer Intern Positions

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <https://www.morpc.org/careers/>