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

March 17, 2023

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MORPC Highlights:

- MORPC Commission Meeting Recap – The Commission met March 9, 2023.
  - The Transportation Policy Committee approved three Resolutions as follows:
    - *Adopting MORPC-Attributable Funding Commitments (T-2-23) – Each year MORPC receives an allocation of approximately \$50 million of federal transportation funds for use in Central Ohio.*
    - *Amending SFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (T-3-23) – This involved adding or modifying 5 projects to the SFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with commitments totaling over \$115 million.*
    - *Adopting Updated Air Quality Conformity Determination for Central Ohio Ozone Maintenance Area (T-4-23) – adopts an updated air quality conformity determination necessitated by an amendment being made by the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) to their 2020-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.*
  - Legislative Updates (via Joe Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Governmental Affairs):
    - *Amtrak – MORPC is very excited with Governor DeWine's decision to have the state move forward and apply for the 3C & D corridor. In addition to that opportunity, MORPC in partnership with the city of Fort Wayne is submitting a corridor for Chicago Columbus and Pittsburgh.*
    - *State Transportation Budget - The House passed the transportation budget by a vote of 74-21. A key highlight is a \$1 billion fund directed to rural highway transportation projects. Eighty percent of those funds would be used to support projects on federal or state highways in counties that do not contain a municipality with a population greater than 65k. The remainder would be used for local governments as local matching funds for TRAC eligibility.*
    - *Columbus Region Coalition (CRC) - Congressman Brad Wenstrup will be visiting MORPC to meet with the CRC. The CRC is a coalition of 16 regional partners who work collectively to advocate with once voice.*
  - **Nominating Committee Report** – nominees for Officers for renewed one-year terms (expires 2024) include Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County (chair); Chris Amorose Groomes, Councilmember, City of Dublin (vice chair); and Michelle Crandall, City Manager, City of Hilliard (secretary).

- MORPC Executive Committee Retreat – *was on Friday, March 10 in New Albany. As part of the agenda, the Committee received an Intel site tour.*

Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

- *Monday, March 20 from 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*  
**Launch of “Money Mondays”** with virtual presentations from Regional Investment Officer, Dr. Todd Bradley. These sessions will be an opportunity for members to ask questions and learn more about key funding opportunities. *You can join the virtual meeting [here](#).*
- *Tuesday, March 28 from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*  
**MORPC Open House on the Transportation Improvement Programs** impacting Delaware and Franklin counties and portions of Fairfield, Licking, and Union counties. [More information on Transportation Improvement Programs \(TIP\) here.](#)
- *Thursday, March 30 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*  
**MORPC Executive Committee Meeting** - Executive Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Commission regarding goals, objectives, strategic direction, public policy issues and budgetary issues, and is also authorized to address personnel matters, as well as operational and administrative policies and procedures. [More information here.](#)
- *Friday, March 31 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*  
**MORPC State of the Region** - highlighting community accomplishments and showcase upcoming plans for the leading our region into the future. Keynote Speaker will be Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles Small, U.S. Department of Transportation. *More details below in the Media Release section.* [More information on the State of the Region agenda and registration here.](#)
- *Thursday, April 13 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*  
**MORPC Commission Meeting** - MORPC’s board of commissioners determine the strategic direction of the agency. All meetings are open to the public. [More information here.](#)