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

*March 17, 2025*

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**MORPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

- The Commission last met on [March 13, 2025](#)

**Agenda Summary**

- Logan County Storm Recovery – Logan County officials provided updates on recovery efforts following recent severe storms.
  - Regional Policy & Legislative Updates – Discussions covered state and federal policy developments impacting Central Ohio, including transportation and sustainability initiatives.
  - Sustainability & Air Quality – MORPC’s annual air quality report was presented, along with a resolution to support pedestrian and bike infrastructure funding.
  - Transportation & Infrastructure Planning – Key votes included expanding the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary and approving funding for regional transportation improvements.
  - Regional Development & Economic Growth – One Columbus provided an update on business expansion efforts, highlighting a significant project involving Anduril.
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**SUMMARY OF MORPC’S MONTHLY REPORT**

**Transportation & Mobility**

- **Active Transportation Planning:** MORPC and ODOT District 6 launched a study for the U.S. 23 Corridor to enhance walking and biking access.
- **Transportation Safety:** MORPC, COTA, and ODOT hosted a workshop on Safe System design for the East Main Bus Rapid Transit corridor.
- **Gohio Commute:** Team members are assisting Federal employees with transportation options for returning to in-person work, targeting 50,000 employees in May and June.
- **Passenger Rail:** MORPC is advocating for increased state-level planning capacity for passenger rail, including additional Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP) support.

**MORPC Representative Report to City Council**

- **LinkUS:** MORPC collaborates with COTA, Columbus, Franklin County, and others to support the Transit-Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) program.
- **Mobility Management:** MORPC partnered with COTA to present senior transportation options at an AARP event.

#### Planning & Development

- **208 Planning and Areawide Designation:** MORPC is working with the ad hoc 208 Review Process Committee to consider designation as an Areawide Planning Agency.
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** The CEDS Committee reviewed economic development updates, including planning efforts for the Anduril project and Knox County villages.
- **Freight Planning:** MORPC attended a Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN) meeting to discuss workforce mobility challenges.
- **Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):** MORPC highlighted regional infrastructure priorities to Central Ohio's Congressional delegation in Washington, DC.
- **Federal Competitive Programs:** MORPC provided letters of support for grant applications for the City of Heath's Thornwood Drive Planning Project and Franklin County Engineer's Office Alum Creek Drive project.

#### Infrastructure & Funding

- **Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC):** Approved additional funding for four projects; a public comment period runs through March 26, with a final vote on April 23.
- **Drive Investment Portal:** MORPC offers a free resource for regional funding opportunities; contact Preston Frick for details at [pfrick@morpc.org](mailto:pfrick@morpc.org).
- **FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient:** Finalizing funding awards for 2024 with execution expected in spring.
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** MORPC is finalizing the State Fiscal Year 26-29 TIP, currently open for public comment.

#### Water & Environmental Initiatives

- **Regional Water Study:** Completed in February; a rollout event is planned with Ohio EPA on April 17.
- **Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC):** First meeting in April 2025; stakeholder list includes representatives from the 15-county region.
- **Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC):** The next meeting is March 19, introducing three new members. A subcommittee met February 19 to refine Goals 2 and 3 for the Regional Sustainability Agenda. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org).
- **Sustainable2050:** Recognized the City of Gahanna for Gold Plus Equity Champion recertification, highlighting its sustainability initiatives.
- **Energy & Air Quality:** The working group met February 26; the next meeting is May 28. Contact Brian Filiatraut ([bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org)) for more information.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure:** MORPC selected Heartland Charging Services to implement a \$2M U.S. DOT-FHWA award to repair/replace non-operational EV chargers.
- **U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG):** MORPC is advancing the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) to reduce pollution and guide regional sustainability efforts.
- **Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project:** 39 sensors deployed with data collection continuing through 2026; education and outreach events planned for April.

### Greenways & Outdoor Initiatives

- **Central Ohio Greenways (COG):** MORPC received a \$325,000 ODOT grant to develop a Central Ohio Cycling Guide, including a bike level-of-stress map and tourism guide.
- **Central Ohio Blueways:** Steering Committee met February 12 to discuss updates and staff changes.

### Community Engagement & Research

- **Regional Housing Strategy:** MORPC continues discussions with member communities to identify and address housing barriers.
- **Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):** Hosted a record-breaking Data Day 2025 event; content will be posted on MORPC's website.
- **Data & Research Activities:** MORPC is developing the "MORPC Insights" platform, offering regional data-driven insights with expert commentary.

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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.

- March 17 – Advancing Transit

[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.](#)

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