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

November 17, 2023

MORPC Highlights:

- **Village of West Jefferson Becomes 86th MORPC Member** – On November 9, 2023, MORPC approved Resolution 15-23 to accept the Village of West Jefferson as the 86th member of the commission. West Jefferson is a community of approximately 4,137 located along US Route 40 in Madison County.
- **New to the MORPC Team** – Padmini Roy-Dixon is now part of the MORPC team as the Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer. Ms. Roy-Dixon will contribute to creating an environment of prosperity in Central Ohio. Her previous experience includes international affairs at The Ohio State University, the Ohio Department of Development, and banking. Parag Agrawal was also recently announced as the new MORPC Chief Mobility Officer & Senior Director of Programming.
- **Rapid 5 Updates** – The organization charged with connecting our region's major waterways and trails into one interconnected, greenspace system (Big Walnut, Alum, Olentangy, Scioto, and Big Darby), or "Rapid 5," is currently engaging with a consultant firm to find a new executive director. The board has also approved Rapid 5 to become a land trust for Central Ohio. This allows private property owners to donate land to the trust for conservation purposes.
- **HUD Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Grant** - MORPC applied to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant program on November 6th, 2023. This application requests \$10 million to fund activities that will preserve and create affordable housing options in Central Ohio. The Regional Housing Strategy is an essential part of this application, and data for this tool will be updated if successful. Please use the link below to read MORPC application. [More information here.](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Money Mondays: Central Ohio Greenways** – Monday, November 27, 2023 at 1:00 PM. [More information here.](#)
- **Energy & Air Quality Working Group** – Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 1:00 PM. [More information here.](#)
- **MORPC Commission Meeting** – Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 1:30 PM. [More information here.](#)