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MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) REPRESENTATIVE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL August 17, 2026

MORPC MEETINGS

- The Commission last met on **August 13, 2026**
- The Commission will meet on **September 10, 2026**; the meeting will be live-streamed
- [The 2026 MORPC meeting calendar is attached.](#)

A CLOSER LOOK

MORPC LEGISLATION:

- **Resolution 12-26 – Regional Data Agenda:** Adoption of MORPC's 2026–2028 Regional Data Agenda to guide regional data initiatives.
- **Resolution T-12-26 – Transportation Improvement Program:** Amendment of the SFY 2026–2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify four projects.
- **Resolution 13-26 – Gohio Commute Vanpool Program:** Authorization of a contract extension with Commute with Enterprise for vanpool fleet services.
- **Resolution 14-26 – Home Weatherization:** Authorization of agreements with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for the 2026 Home Weatherization Assistance Enhancement Program and related subcontracts.
- **Resolution 15-26 – Federal Funding & Strategic Opportunities:** Authorization of an agreement with Cityfi Advisors for federal funding and consulting for Central Ohio.

MONTHLY AGENCY REPORT SUMMARY

- **Auditor of State Award with Distinction:** MORPC earned the award for its 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, placing it among the top four percent of nearly 4,200 audits performed in Ohio this year.
- **Central Ohio Cycling Guide:** MORPC completed the Columbus Metro Bike Map and the region's first 15-county trail map, featuring regional trails, rides, scenic destinations, and cultural attractions. The guide is available free of charge.

Need Assistance? Call 614-342-4090 Or Use Ohio Relay 7-1-1.



- **Population Estimates & Projections:** MORPC presented updated population estimates and projections through the Regional Data Roundtable.
- **Legislative Update:** The Regional Policy Roundtable received MORPC's latest state and federal legislative update.
- **Competitive Advantage Projects:** MORPC reviewed 13 project nominations.

MORPC'S BILLS TO WATCH

1. **House Bill 445** - Metropolitan Planning Organizations – 3rd hearing in House Local Government Committee
2. **House Bill 646** - Data Centers – Recommended to Senate Energy Committee
3. **House Bill 292** - Establish the Ohio Defense Commission – Signed into law by the Governor

[Read MORPC's full July legislative update here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

UPDATES

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) | AUGUST

MORPC working groups developed action plan goals and strategies across five priority areas. The full CEDS committee will review the draft Action Plan in August. [Learn more about CEDS.](#)

CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT:

- [Updating your cyber safety](#)
- [Daily air quality report](#)
- [The Age-Friendly Innovation Center](#)
- [Free residential weatherization services](#)
- [GOhio Commute sustainable travel options](#)
- [Insights Data Platform](#)

SHARE YOUR PRIORITIES

MORPC invites community members to share their insights. Below are some opportunities:

- Share your priorities with MORPC at EconomicDevelopment@Morpc.Org.
- [See the results from the Leaders Listen Survey here.](#)

KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES

- [Ohio Energy Efficiency Program \(OEEP\) – Implementation Funds - Rolling](#)
- [Historic Preservation Pipeline Initiative - Rolling; July 1 \(open\)](#)
- [Economic Development Program – Rolling; July 1 \(open\)](#)

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- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees - Rolling
- Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program - Rolling
- Residential Development Revolving Loan Program
- Learn more about investment opportunities here

DRIVE INVESTMENT

- BASICS Act: Bipartisan bill for alignment between federal and regional priorities
- Transformational Mixed-Use Development Program: State tax credit program

DISASTER RESOURCES

- **State and Local Government Agencies**
 - **Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**: Coordinates state disaster response, manages the [State Disaster Relief Program \(SDRP\)](#) for local governments and eligible non-profits, and helps assess community damages.
 - Disaster Relief handbook [LINK](#).
 - **Ohio Department of Insurance**: Provides toolkits and consumer aid for handling property and casualty insurance claims after severe weather.
- **Local County Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) & Job and Family Services**: handles county-level disaster declarations, temporary emergency aid, and human services provisions.
- **Federal Assistance**
 - **FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)**: Offers individual assistance (housing, repairs) and public assistance (infrastructure repair) when a federal disaster is declared.
 - **SBA (Small Business Administration)**: Provides low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses to repair or replace damaged property.
- **Community and Non-Profit Relief**
 - **American Red Cross (Central and Southern / Northern Ohio chapters)**: Sets up emergency shelters, distributes food and water, and aids with immediate personal recovery.
 - **Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Ohio VOAD)**: A coalition of non-profit and faith-based groups working together during and after disasters.
 - **The Salvation Army**: Offers localized emergency mass care, spiritual care, and financial or material aid.
- **Single Family Home repair program** <https://www.rd.usda.gov>
- **Habitat for Humanity** www.habitatmidohio.org

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UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

MORPC SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMIT | AUGUST 19

Communications professionals from across Central Ohio will explore the latest trends shaping social media today. [Sign up for the summit here.](#)

OHIO CONFERENCE ON FREIGHT | AUGUST 24–26

Public and private sector leaders from across North America will discuss freight transportation, multimodal infrastructure, and economic development. [Conference registration.](#)

MORPC SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY | OCTOBER 28

MORPC will host its annual Summit on Sustainability at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

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.](#)