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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
Representative Report to City Council
August 18, 2025

MORPC Board of Commissioners Meeting

- The Commission met on August 14, 2025. The meeting was live-streamed.
- [Upcoming Commission Meeting](#): September 11, 2025.
- Scott Brown, Regional Liaison from Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber's office presented the Auditor of State Award with Distinction to MORPC.
- Mayor Jadwin was elected by the commission as Secretary of the Executive Committee.
- Updated Transportation Improvement Plan information. Dashboard available at www.morpc.org/tip
- Presentation on the Westerville Home Repair Program. Additional information available [here](#).
- Gahanna is now home to an air quality alert monitor.
- Res. 14-2025 - authorizing MORPC to join the regional council of governments for Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging.
- Res. 13-2025 - adopting MORPC's 2025-2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda (see attachment).
- Res. T-10-25 - Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program"

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Ohio House overrode a veto banning replacement property tax levies; the Senate has not yet voted. The Governor convened a working group to review the issues. [Read MORPC's complete legislative summary here.](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

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Fifty interns completed summer placements in local governments, including several serving in the City of Gahanna. The Council Office celebrates its intern, **Nathan Graves**, who will soon begin a yearlong fellowship with the American Maritime Congress through the Ship American Council Fellowship Program while completing his MPA in Washington, D.C. In this role, Nathan will support policy, communications, and outreach efforts, including stakeholder engagement, congressional relations, and development of educational and advocacy materials.

"I'm thrilled for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the intersection of public policy, nonprofit development, and maritime trade." – **Nathan Graves**

Below, you can view Graves' report to the City Council on his Gahanna internship.

1. [Report documents](#)
2. [Meeting video](#)

- **MORPC HONORS FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM C. HABIG**

MORPC hosted a post-Commission reception on Thursday, August 14, to honor former Executive Director William C. Habig by renaming the "Inspiration Station" community room and unveiling artwork by two Ohio artists, celebrating artists Mac Worthington and Ben Crumpler. Habig started the program "Arts in the Halls" which lifts up art in public spaces.

- **DEFENSE GROUP CHAMPIONS IN D.C.**

MORPC joined Central Ohio leaders in Washington, D.C. for the Association for Defense Communities conference, meeting with Congressional members to discuss Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) and support Whitehall's Defense Community Infrastructure Program grant application. MORPC continues efforts to establish an IGSA with local defense installations to boost efficiency and create local revenue opportunities.

- **AIR QUALITY ALERTS**

MORPC continues to issue alerts during high-pollution days and partners with communities to reduce emissions.

- **MORPC SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS (CAP)**

MORPC is accepting [Project Nomination Forms](#) for the CAP Program, which aligns infrastructure investments with economic development priorities. Forms are due by Sunday, August 31, 2025.

- **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**

Registration is open for MORPC's new Regional Economic Development Academy, offering training on economic development resources for officials, community leaders, and professionals across sectors. The program features in-person instruction, case studies, and interactive exercises, with no prerequisites or membership requirements. **Registration is now open** – click [here](#) to secure your spot! Please contact Padmini Roy-Dixon at proydixon@morpc.org with any questions.

- **KEY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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- Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization ([CORPO](#)) [Dedicated Funds](#) – \$2.4M available for transportation-related projects in CORPO's service area; deadline Aug. 8, 2025.
- [Urban Forestry Grant](#) – Up to \$100K for tree planting and urban forestry initiatives; deadline Aug. 27, 2025.
- [FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program](#) – \$1.447B for long-term economic recovery in federally declared disaster counties (2023–2024); *Readiness and Implementation Paths* have rolling deadlines, *Industry Transformation Path* closes Mar. 3, 2026.
- [Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program](#) – \$37.5M for open space acquisition and watershed protection; deadlines vary by district **Aug.–Sept. 2025**.

- **SHARE YOUR STORY**

MORPC invites partners to share ongoing projects, accomplishments, and future priorities to help build a competitive project pipeline for federal funding. Contact economicdevelopment@morpc.org to participate.

- **MORPC IS HIRING**

MORPC is hiring an [Economic & Community Development Specialist](#). Details on this and other openings are available at morpc.org/careers.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

- **Emerging Energy Technologies Forum**: Aug. 27, 2025, OSU – Energy Advancement & Innovation Center – Focused on future-proofing the region's energy systems, exploring microgrids, smart grid tech, renewable integration, and other innovations to boost reliability, sustainability, and economic growth.
- **Safe Streets Central Ohio**: Sept. 9, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. – Wigwam Event Center – Annual event bringing together partners to reduce roadway fatalities and severe injuries, share best practices, and inspire collaboration.
- **Summit on Sustainability**: Sept. 30, 2025 – Theme: Local Roots. Local Impacts – Features plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and the Regional Sustainability Awards.
- **Pre-Commission Lunch with Derrick Clay**: Nov. 13, 12–1:15 p.m. – Columbus Chamber CEO Derrick Clay will share his vision for driving growth and prosperity in the Columbus Region.

FEATURED MORPC INITIATIVE: GOHIO COMMUTE

GOhio Commute continues to support regional workforce mobility through rideshare programs, vanpools, and emergency ride home services. Employers and commuters can learn more and participate in upcoming promotions this summer.

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.

**Money Mondays is currently on summer break and will return in the fall.*

[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.](#)