

FRANKLIN CO.
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REGIONAL
PLANNING
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ANNUAL
REPORT



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



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preface

In 1943, elected officials and concerned citizens from cities, villages and townships — as well as Franklin County itself — met to discuss certain land use issues and problems common to many, unique to some, but *all* of which affected the County on a regional basis.

Population had begun a dramatic increase. As a result, numerous questions regarding area growth were raised.

- Where should water and sewer facilities be located?
- What roadways should be improved — or new ones built?
- How much housing — multifamily and single family — would be necessary . . . and where should it be built?
- What areas should be set aside for parks and recreation?
- How should significant historic sites, buildings and landmarks be preserved?
- How should natural resources (water, forests, wildlife) be protected?
- Where should schools, police, fire and health care facilities be located to best serve projected growth trends?

Realizing the urgent need to address these questions comprehensively — yet realistically — these people formed the **Franklin County Planning Commission**. Success was evident. Just seven years later, state legislation authorized the Franklin County *Regional* Planning Commission (Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21). Then, in 1969, **MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION** was “born”.

Simply stated, regional planning assures that your environment will be *at least* as livable in ten to twenty-five years as it is today . . . perhaps even more so! To achieve this, planners study and recommend the best use of existing physical, human and financial resources.

Generally, regional planning falls within three categories, depending upon the period for which planning is done: *Long Range* (fifteen years or more); *Mid Range* (six to fourteen years); and *Short Range* (one to five years). Regardless of the time span, regional planning procedure embodies these critical elements —

How can available land be used most efficiently for park and recreation areas, agricultural, commercial, industrial and residential sites?

WHAT IS REGIONAL PLANNING

land use

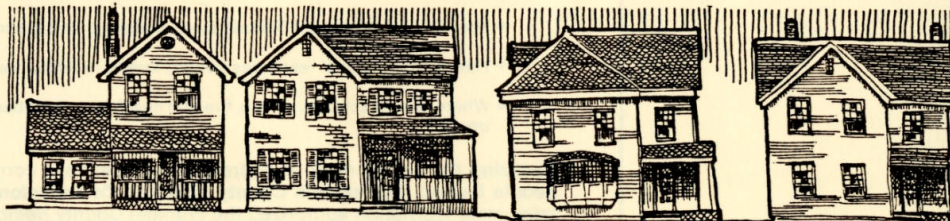
transportation

People travel for many reasons — employment, vacation, education, medical care, to visit friends and relatives, shopping for food and clothing. In doing so, several modes of travel are used — air, bus, rail, water, automobile, bicycle, on foot — to move people from one place to another.

housing

As areas grow, new and rehabilitated housing that is energy efficient must be provided to meet the different needs of rural and urban residents at a cost they can afford.

Redevelopment of inner city property presents a difficult planning dimension that must be addressed. If families are displaced because of renewal/rehabilitation of neighborhoods, then they must be supplied with housing equal in value to that occupied when displacement occurred. How will such rehabilitation/redevelopment be funded?



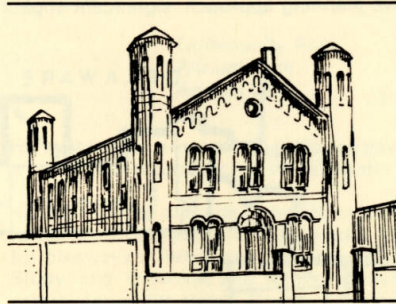
water & sewer

Availability of water and sewer facilities is critical to commercial and residential expansion. Indeed, growth and development policies, progress and direction often hinge solely upon existing or proposed water and sewer services.



human services

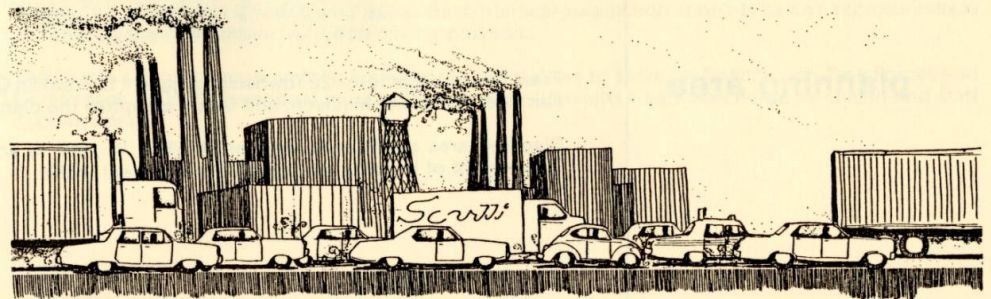
Comprehensive planning must include efficient delivery of social services to low income, elderly and handicapped persons. Proper health care and treatment for emotionally disturbed youngsters is essential to conserve our most valuable resource — our young people.



environment

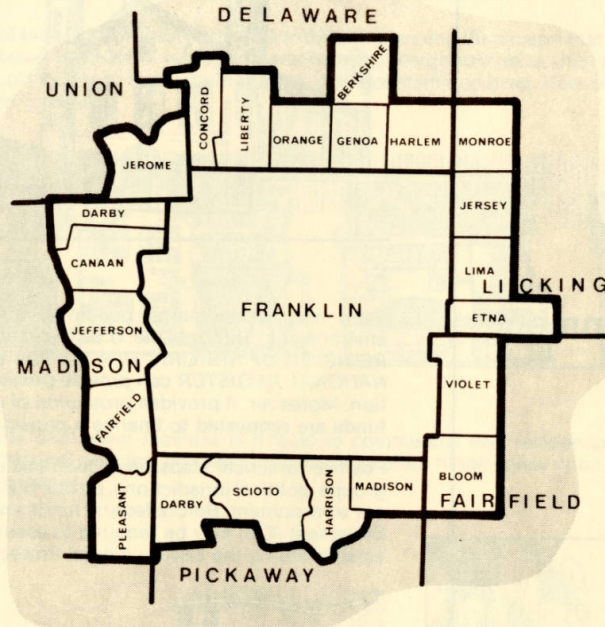
Many historic landmarks, buildings, and areas are of educational and cultural significance to our environment. Through the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service, the *NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES* lists the Nation's resources worthy of preservation. Listing in the *NATIONAL REGISTER* can provide private property owners Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation. Moreover, it provides protection of property through a review and comment procedure if Federal funds are requested to finance a project that affects the property's historic value.

Positive, practical steps have been taken by citizen groups, governmental agencies, special interest groups, political jurisdictions, private business and educational institutions to reduce harmful effects on our environment. Before federal funds are made available for a major project, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be required to assure that air, water, and noise impacts do not exceed standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

More widely referred to as MORPC, MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION is dedicated to helping provide you the highest quality of life using available resources. Through the agency's deliberate, comprehensive planning approach, significant impact is felt upon our life styles.



planning area

Franklin County plus the 22 Townships adjacent to Franklin County in the Counties of Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Madison, and Union comprise the planning area.

Planning area boundaries were established in 1969 in accord with a directive issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

funding

The basic source of operating revenue comes from annual dues paid by MORPC members' governments at a uniform rate of \$.20 per capita. These monies — termed "local" dollars — are used to match Federally funded programs with specific projects to answer definite community needs.

Example:

Community Pop.:	18,576
Annual Rate:	\$.20/person
Annual Dues:	\$3,715.20 (18,576 x \$.20)

For every dollar a member jurisdiction pays us, we return about seven dollars worth of services to them — a handsome return on any investment!

Another source of funds comes from carrying out fully funded contract work for MORPC members. We researched, designed and presented to the City of Gahanna a proposed 'Growth Plan'; a feasibility study for bikeways in Whitehall was completed; nearly all members joined in financing a Storm Drainage Study, and Technical and Administrative Services were supplied to Urbancrest. Also, in addition to administering the Urban County Housing and Community Development Program for the County Commissioners, MORPC performed a Parking Study for the County Complex.

Further, MORPC has received funds from other agencies and foundations on contract bases. Some of these include Battelle Memorial Institute Foundation, United Way of Columbus and Franklin County, the Columbus Foundation, The Ohio Historical Society, United Community Council and The Ohio State University.

commission structure

The organizational structure of the Commission is typical of most regional planning organizations. All political subdivisions within Franklin County, as well as those in adjacent counties which are contiguous, are eligible to join the Commission. Cities, villages, townships and Franklin County comprise the voluntary membership of your Commission. Each political jurisdiction appoints its own representatives to serve on the Commission — a non-paying position.

The Commission Chairperson then appoints representatives to serve on Commission Task Forces and Committees. MORPC personnel are assigned to each Committee and Task Force as liaison and staff coordinators.

agency operation

Under direction of an Executive Director, MORPC's administrative structure is based upon a staff management "team" approach. Each technical program area is guided by a Manager or Administrator whose responsibility is overall direction of that department's personnel and work program. These program areas and their basic functions include . . .

Transportation: Develops ways to best meet total transportation needs of area residents. In doing so, MORPC allocates Federal Aid to Urban Systems (FAUS) funds for highway, bikeway, fringe parking and transit capital expenditures — buses and shelters, for example — as authorized under designation as areawide Transportation Planning Organization.

Transportation corridor and facility feasibility studies; active citizen involvement programs; environmental impact reviews and constant attention to available funding programs and changing regulations — all are integral parts of the Transportation Program's efforts to assist MORPC members.

Agency data collection and Research Department activities also are administered within the Transportation Program.

Water-Related: Recommends programs concerning stormwater management, water supply and distribution, and flood control, as well as areawide water quality management.

Comprehensive Planning: Housing always has been a major component of the agency's planning activity. Rehabilitation, market analysis, equal opportunity in housing, and the area's overall housing needs are primary elements being examined by the Comprehensive Planning staff.

Determining the timing and location of growth development and expansion based upon the public's ability to provide necessary services is termed Growth Management. Because this activity cuts across and impacts every program area within MORPC, the Comprehensive Planning staff devotes considerable time to in-depth study of factors involved within Growth Management. In an effort to establish sound growth policies, attention centers on provision of *public services and facilities, economic development, and the most effective use of fiscal, natural and human resources.*

**Housing and
Community
Development:**

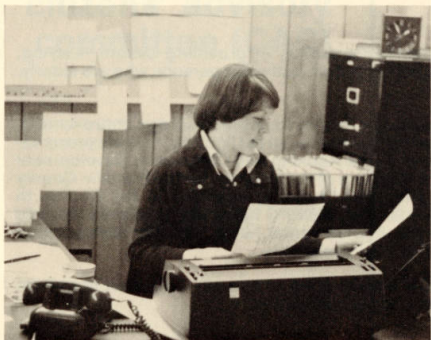
Assists the balance of Franklin County outside Columbus in providing decent housing, appropriate living conditions and better economic opportunities for persons who are elderly, handicapped or of lower income.

Loan and grant programs for housing rehabilitation; money for storm drainage improvement, street and alley resurfacing, emergency housing assistance, street lighting, historic preservation and community centers — all are financed by the Housing and Community Development Urban County Block Grant Program. As administrators of the program for the Franklin County Commissioners, MORPC also is working with other housing agencies in the County to establish a Section 8 Outreach Program. Under this, MORPC helps link landlords, tenants who need housing but cannot afford current market rental rates, with the Metropolitan Housing Authority which in turn provides financial assistance.

Weatherization education — as well as actual weatherizing of homes — plays an important role in helping citizens meet rising costs of energy consumption.

**County Planning/
Special Projects:**

Staff personnel review and report regularly on all applications considered by the Franklin County Planning Area Subcommittee, Zoning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Under contract with MORPC's member jurisdictions, this program area may provide zoning and subdivision technical assistance and advice.



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support program areas

In addition to directing day-to-day agency operations and overall responsibility for the staff and program, the Executive Director supervises the "Support" Program Areas. These areas — which complement, advise and interact with all technical program areas — include . . .

- Public Information:** This area deals with media relations, publication editing, communications, agency promotion, public involvement efforts, audio-visual equipment and slide file, and coordination of staff support to the Citizens' Advisory Committee.
- Finance/
Data Processing:** The Comptroller safeguards agency financial assets through supervision of the Finance Department, administration of the Commission budgeting process and coordination of the agency's contractual functions. He also supervises data processing operations.
- Graphic Arts:** Maps, displays and presentations are prepared. Reproduction or printing processes, as well as graphic techniques are reviewed, approved and coordinated within the Graphic Arts area.
- Administration:** Directs personnel matters, purchases all equipment and supplies, maintains the physical plant, coordinates Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Programs, sustains adequate levels of secretarial service.
- Library:** Well equipped and staffed, MORPC's Library provides quick efficient access to published material valuable to all staff personnel.

Thus, Technical Program areas are blended with Support Programs to provide the expertise and facilities necessary to plan ways to meet the diverse community and social service needs within MORPC's planning area.

advantages of MORPC membership

- A "voice" in how your environment is affected by regional planning
- An objective, impartial body devoting its full time to helping meet each member jurisdiction's specific needs
- Information on proposed development in unincorporated areas of Franklin County within a community's own planning area
- Millions of dollars of federal and state money to assist in planning, design and construction of highways, bikeways and other transportation-related facilities
- A "watchdog" to inform members as guidelines and regulations are revised or newly issued
- Opportunities for citizen input through public meetings and Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Help for communities in administering confusing governmental funding programs
- Access to MORPC's 'data bank' of information — constantly being expanded and updated to reflect modern practices and trends

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission members have adopted goals and objectives leading to the agency's overall mission: *Service to Members*. Periodically, progress toward measurable objectives will be evaluated. Revisions, deletions and additions will occur as appropriate.

Nationwide, planning institutions regularly change their focus and direction to reflect economic factors and the fluctuation of social, environmental and physical needs of areas they serve. For example, emphasis on comprehensive, long-range planning of the past decade has given way to relatively short-range, implementation oriented planning and programming.

Recognizing this pattern, MORPC has been designing and developing its total effort to most efficiently and economically provide service to county, city, village and township governments in Franklin County and, of course, those citizens who reside in each.

Some examples of service we provide our members include . . .

Maximizing the flow of federal and state funds to meet escalating costs of providing services and capital programs

Carrying out contract work — growth plans; pedestrian, parking, and bikeway studies

Providing technical advice

Answering inquiries about zoning, subdivisions and lot splits in unincorporated Franklin County

Coordinating and encouraging inter-governmental cooperation at all levels

Continuous updating of zoning and subdivision codes

Providing planning and technical assistance to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), including extended routes and route service, as well as recommendations regarding capital items

Developing cost and energy effective pilot programs — joint purchasing; model housing codes; federal flood insurance

Using time sharing computer data service

Developing model zoning ordinances

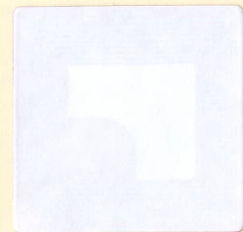
Forming joint ventures with other agencies to design and develop projects most economically, benefiting the entire region

In Summary . . .

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has evolved from a county entity responsible for reviewing zoning and subdivision applications into an agency that represents the collective interests of municipal governments, providing them individual assistance wherever possible.

While Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is *not* a government, Federal and State legislation have granted the agency certain responsibilities that have enabled MORPC to help its members prosper, expand and develop in an orderly fashion. MORPC will continue to respond to its member jurisdictions' needs by analyzing, evaluating and answering a wide variety of regional problems . . . truly providing

. . . service to members!



glossary

A-95	Circular A-95 issued by U.S. Office of Management and Budget; refers to a regional review and comment process needed to gain approval for federal funding applications.
Action Planning	A citizen participation process required for all transportation projects and planning.
CAC-CSWQMP	Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Central Scioto Water Quality Management Plan
CAC-MORPC	Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
CASH	Community Assistance for Selected Houses
CD	Community Development Program, which is a result of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
CETA	Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, the new manpower planning and funding program of the federal government.
CFCCJCC	Columbus and Franklin County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the local agency which allocates "safe streets" money.
CIP	Community Improvement Program
CMACAO	Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization, the local CAA (Community Action Agency), or poverty agency.
COG	Council of Governments, a federation formed by local governments.
COMMOC	Central Ohio Mayors and Municipal Officials Council (sometimes COMAMOC), often referred to as the Mayors Council.
COTA	Central Ohio Transit Authority
CSWQMP	Central Scioto Water Quality Management Plan
DECD	Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development
DCGC	Development Committee for Greater Columbus
DNR	U.S. Department of Natural Resources
DOD	Columbus Department of Development
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
EDA	Economic Development Administration, in the Department of Commerce.

EIS	Environmental Impact Statement, usually required to obtain federal funds.
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERDA	Energy Resource and Development Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Agency
FAUS	Federal Aid to Urban Systems
Federal Register	The daily publication in which rules, regulations and other official federal actions are announced, proclaimed, promulgated.
FHA	Federal Housing Administration, within U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, within U.S. Department of Transportation (formerly Bureau of Public Roads (BPR)).
FY	Fiscal year. Federal and state governments normally work on a July 1 to June 30 FY and the year designated is the year in which the FY <i>ends</i> .
GAIN	Grants to Aid in Improving Neighborhoods
HEW	U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICMA	International City Management Association, a professional organization for city management which influences federal actions relating to local governmental programs.
LEAA	U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a part of the Department of Justice, which passes funds through states to local agencies such as CFCCJCC.
LUCRPC	Logan, Union, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, a tri-county regional planning agency.
LWV	League of Women Voters
MHSC	Metropolitan Human Services Commission
MOHPF	Mid-Ohio Health Planning Federation, a 17-county health planning organization.
MORPC	Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, primarily serving Franklin County, but also has some planning responsibilities for areas surrounding Franklin County.

NARC	National Association of Regional Councils
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
OARC	Ohio Association of Regional Councils
OBM	Office of Budget and Management, within the Ohio Governor's office; not to be confused with OMB (see below).
ODA	Ohio Department of Agriculture
ODNR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
ODOT	Ohio Department of Transportation
OEO	U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity which oversees the poverty programs carried out by CAAs.
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OMB	Office of Management and Budget within the Office of the President of the U.S.; formerly Bureau of the Budget (BOB).
OML	Ohio Municipal League
OWP	Overall Work Program; a one-year program proposal required for RPCs and RPDOs to gain funding.
PAC-CSWQMP	Policy Advisory Committee of the Central Scioto Water Quality Management Plan
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
RPDO	Regional Planning and Development Organization, a generic term for those agencies which will be designated by the Governor to oversee generally the planning efforts conducted within a region; will have A-95 review powers. An RPDO may be an RPC or a COG.
SCS	U.S. Soil Conservation Service
SMSA	Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, established by Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. In central Ohio the counties of Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway, Fairfield and Madison are in the SMSA.
TAC-CSWQMP	Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Scioto Water Quality Management Plan
UCC	United Community Council, a Franklin County social planning agency.

UMTA	Urban Mass Transportation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
Numbers	
201	Refers to Section 201 of the Water Quality Act Amendments of 1972 which deals with local water quality project planning.
208	Refers to Section 208 of the same act as above but deals with areawide water quality planning and management.
303	Refers to Section 303 of same act noted above but refers to state water quality planning.
701	Refers to Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1949 (as amended) which provides federal funds to carry out long-range local and regional comprehensive planning.
16(b)(2)	Refers to Section 16(b)(2) of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration which is concerned with transportation for elderly and handicapped.
513	House Bill 513 addresses certain urban and agricultural sediment pollution problems.