

# THE FUTURE OF PASSENGER RAIL IN OHIO

**Parag Agrawal, AICP**

*Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer and Senior Director of Programming*

**Elliott Lewis, P.E.**

*Principal Planner*



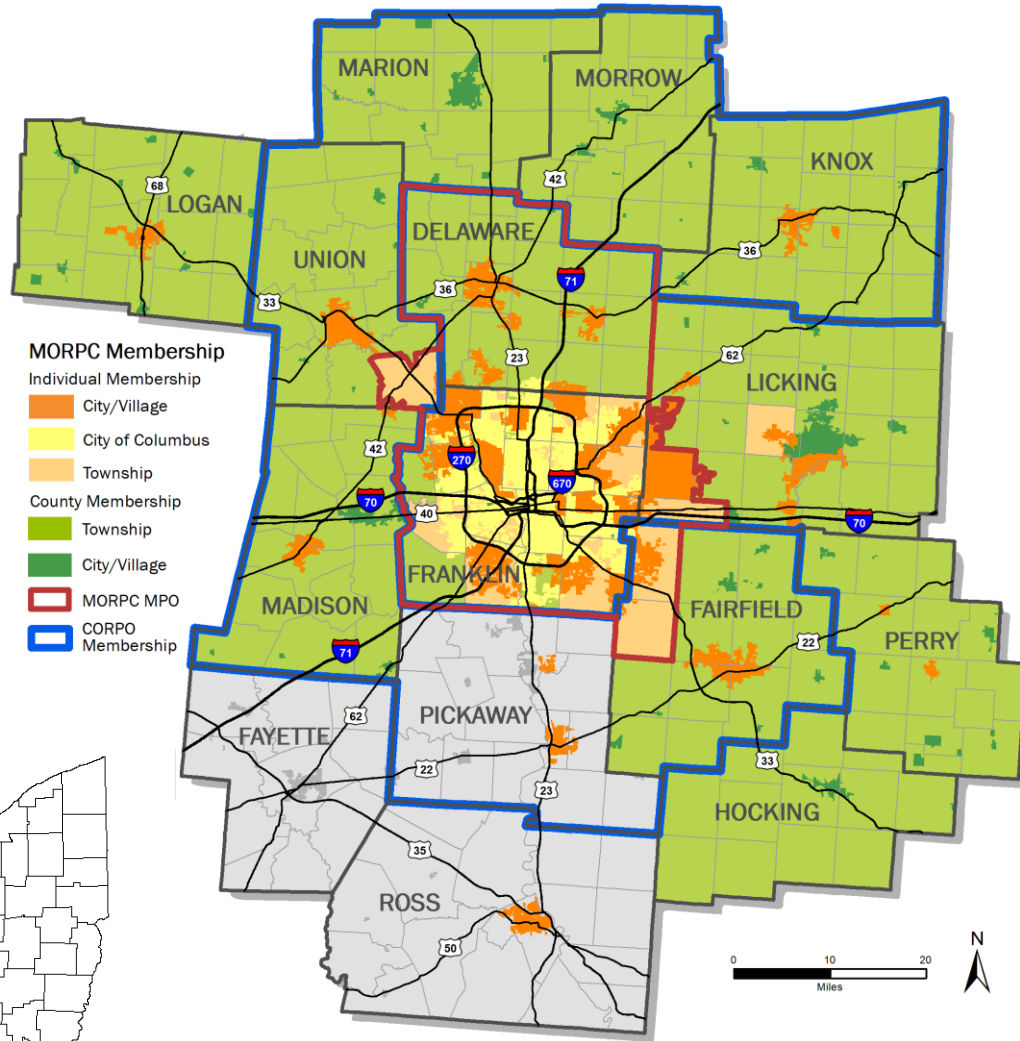
MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

# TODAY'S AGENDA

- MORPC and Central Ohio Growth
- Overview of Amtrak in America and Ohio
- Past Planning Efforts
- Current Planning: Corridor ID Program
- Routes in Central Ohio
- Other Passenger Rail Activities
- Integrating Passenger Rail with Community Development

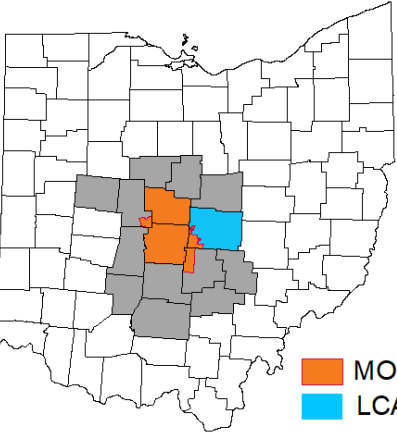


# MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



- MORPC Membership**
- Individual Membership**
- City/Village
  - City of Columbus
  - Township
- County Membership**
- Township
  - City/Village
- MORPC MPO**
- CORPO Membership

- Regional Council for Columbus, Ohio Region
  - 2.4 million and growing
- Services for 83 Local Governments
  - Rural \* Urban \* Suburban
- Focus Areas:
  - Transportation & Infrastructure
  - Development Support (EDD)
  - Planning & Sustainability
  - Data, Research & Mapping
  - Residential Services
  - Policy & Grant Development
  - Engagement
- Key Partner to Businesses & Non-Profits

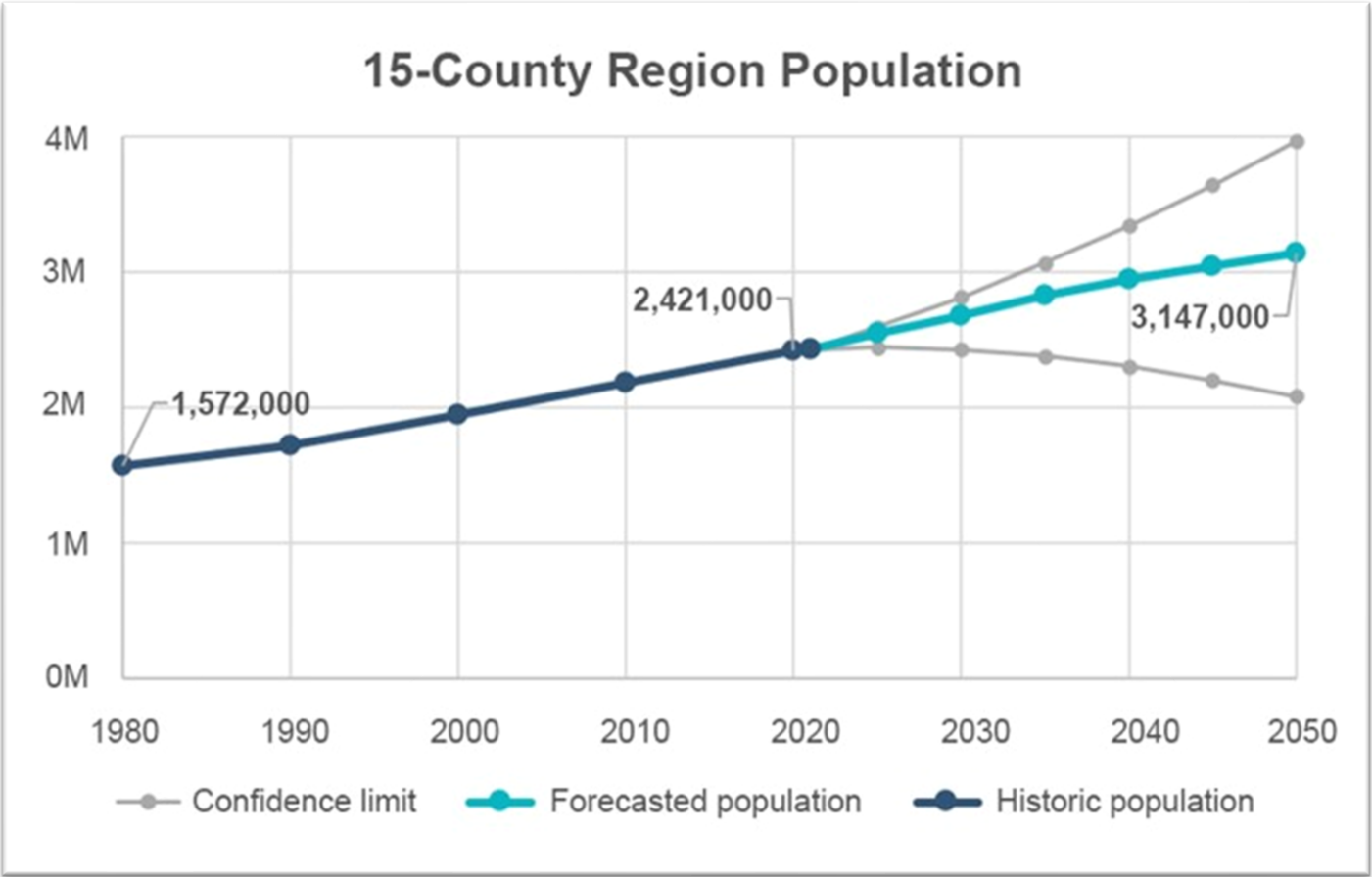


- ORPC
- LCATS

# REGIONAL GROWTH REMAINS STRONG



MORPC



# PASSENGER RAIL OVERVIEW & PAST PLANNING EFFORTS



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

# OVERVIEW – PASSENGER RAIL IN AMERICA



MORPC



# OVERVIEW – PASSENGER RAIL IN OHIO



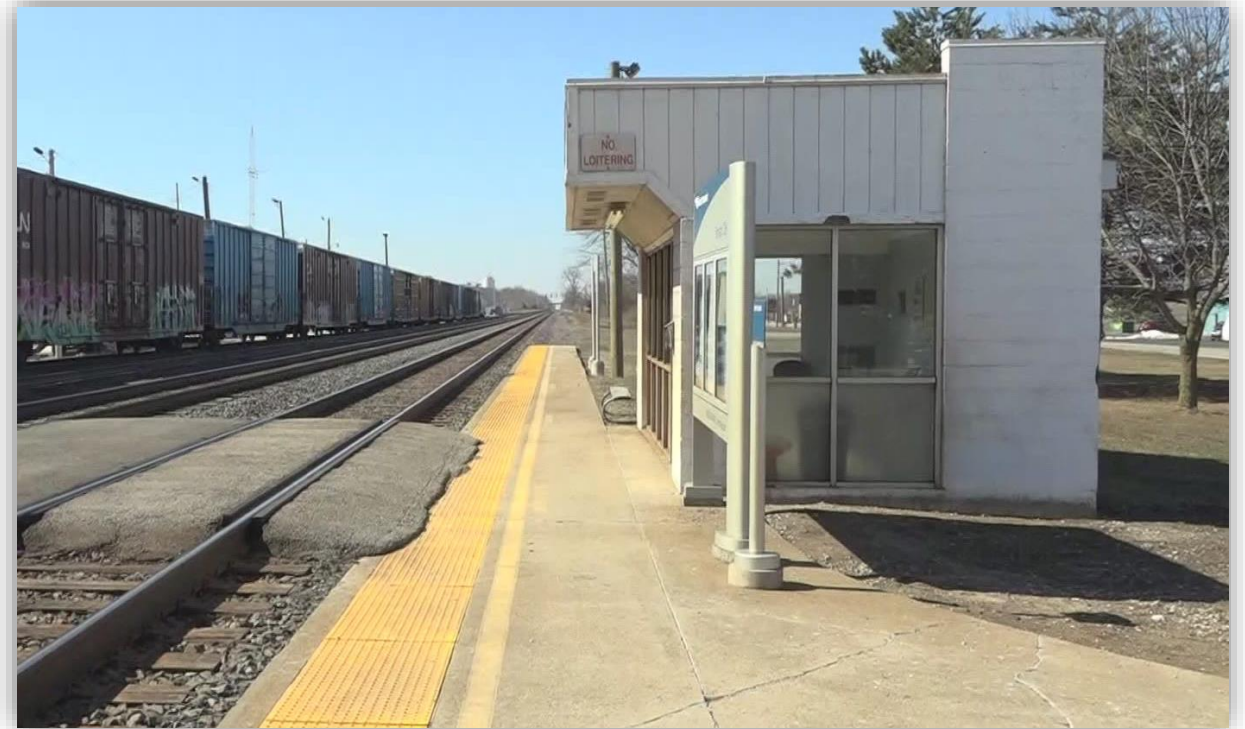
- Long-distance service only; no state-supported routes

*Capitol Limited* (Chicago to Washington, DC)

*Lake Shore Limited* (Chicago to NYC/Boston)

*Cardinal* (Chicago to NYC via DC)

- One or two trains per day
- No daytime service (after 8:00AM or before 11:00PM)

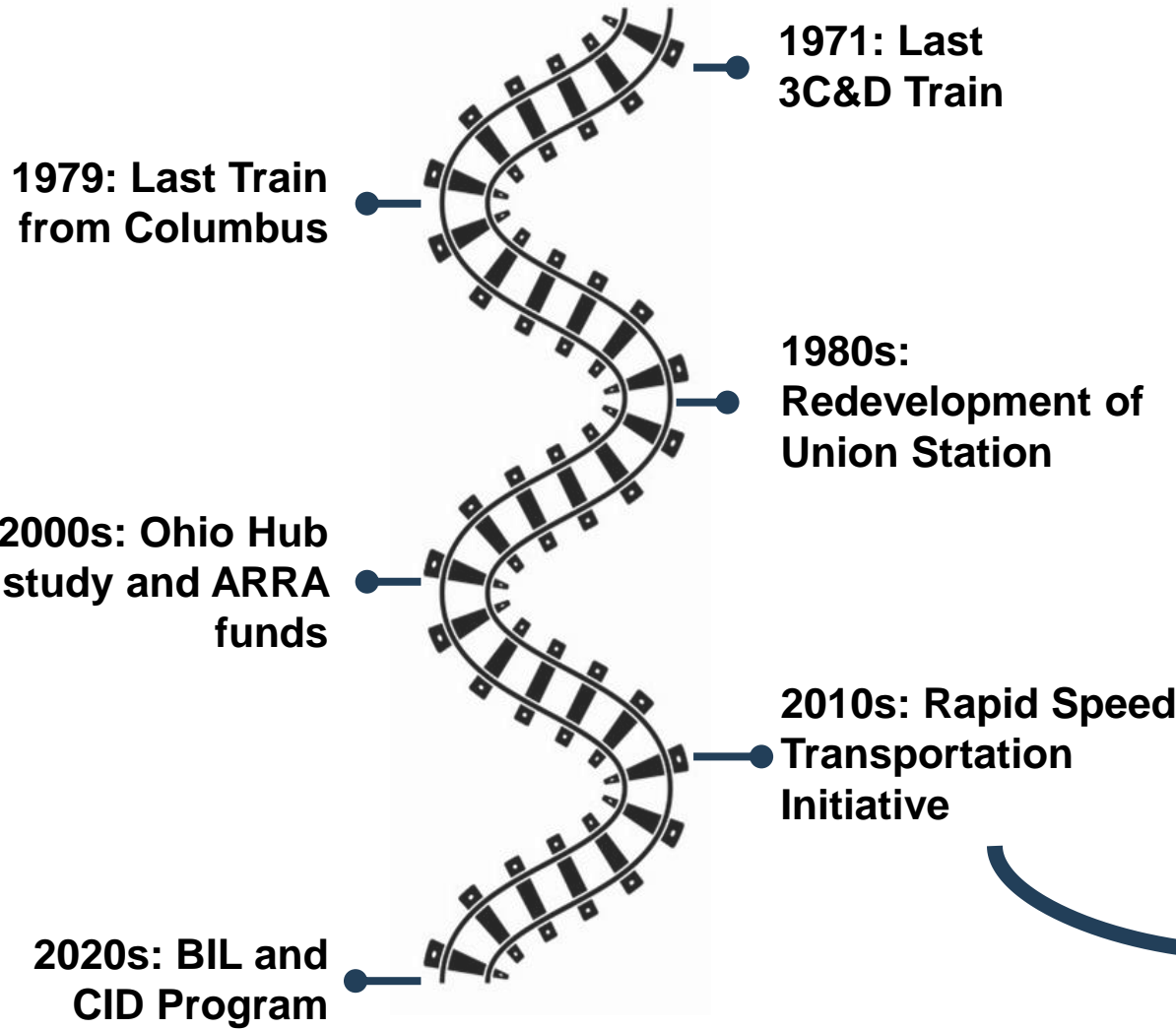
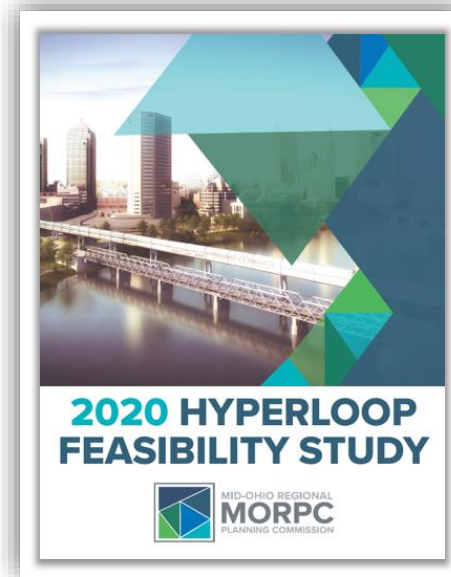
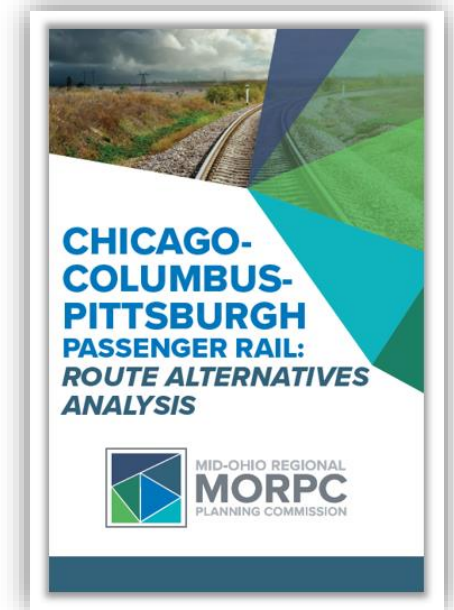
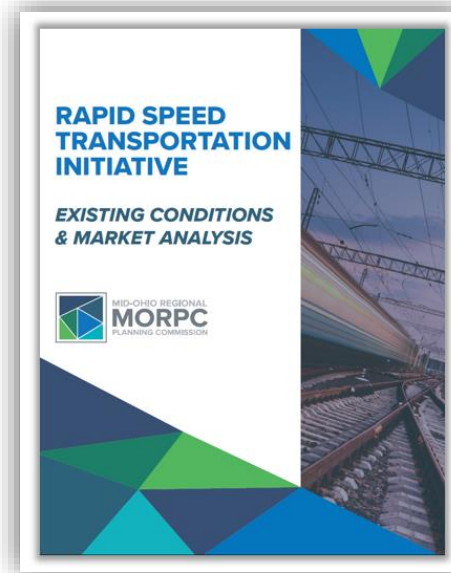


Amtrak station, Bryan, OH

# PAST PLANNING EFFORTS



MORPC



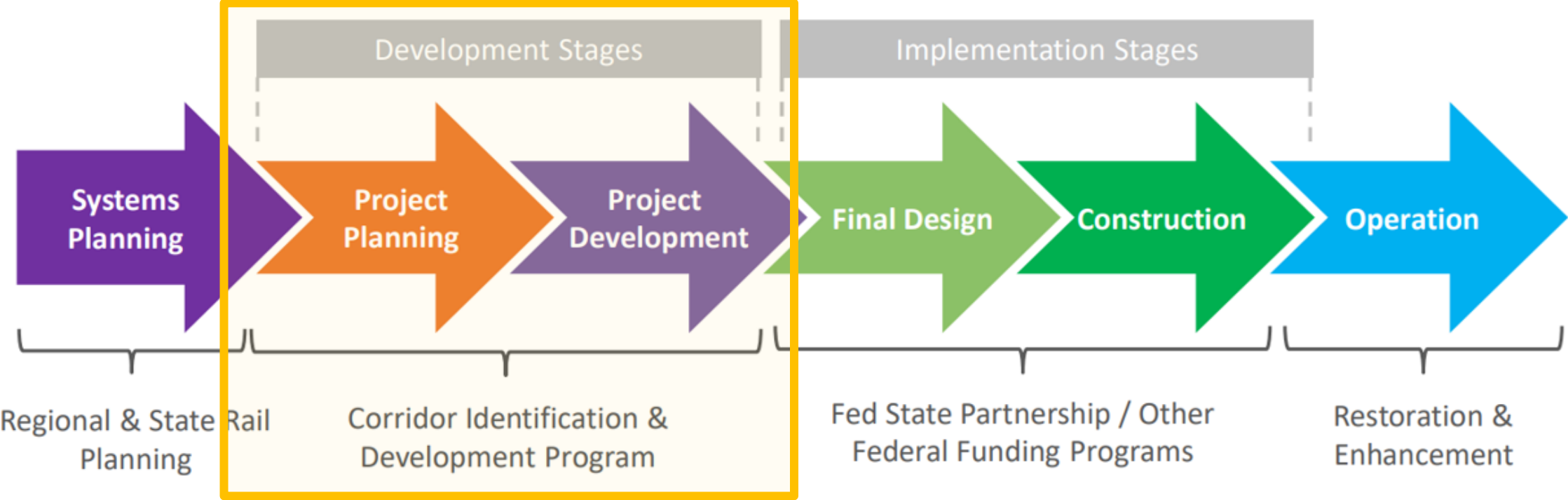


# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW & CURRENT PLANNING



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

# CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS: FRA ROLES AND PROGRAMS



# CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM



## Step 1

*Selection and Initiation*

## Step 2

*Route Planning*

## Step 3

*Project Development*

Capital improvements developed in Step 3 will be placed in a pipeline of projects by the FRA. These will be eligible for future design and construction funding through other federal programs.



1

## Step 1

### *Selection and Initiation*

2

*What:* Develop scope, schedule, cost estimate for Step 2

*Why:* Capacity-building to deliver subsequent Steps

*Duration:* Approx. **6-12 months** to complete

*Cost/Award:* **\$500,000 award**

3

*Local Match:* **No local match required**



1

## Step 2

### *Route Planning*

2

*What:* Prepare a *Service Development Plan (SDP)*

*Why:* Detail route, stations, service, capital improvements

*Duration:* Approx. **1-3 years** to complete

*Cost/Award:* **Determined in Step 1**

3

*Local Match:* **10% local match**



1

## Step 3

### *Project Development*

2

*What:* Preliminary engineering, environmental review

*Why:* Prepare projects for design, construction, service

*Duration:* Approx. **1-3 years** to complete

*Cost/Award:* **Determined in Step 2**

3

*Local Match:* **20% local match**

# OHIO CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM AWARDS



# CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM UPDATE



- **Cincinnati-Dayton-Columbus-Cleveland (3C&D)**
  - ORDC is lead sponsor, MORPC as stakeholder
  - Step 1 initiated
  - Packaging early activities with Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit CID corridor
  - Similar timeline as Midwest Connect



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3



# CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM UPDATE



- **Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus-Pittsburgh (Midwest Connect)**

- MORPC is a co-sponsor with Fort Wayne, IN and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
- Kick-off meeting with HNTB in July, working session in October
- Formalizing roles of corridor supporters, dialogue with other sponsors in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania
- 6-12 months to complete Step 1 (early 2025)



# CENTRAL OHIO PASSENGER RAIL COMMITTEE



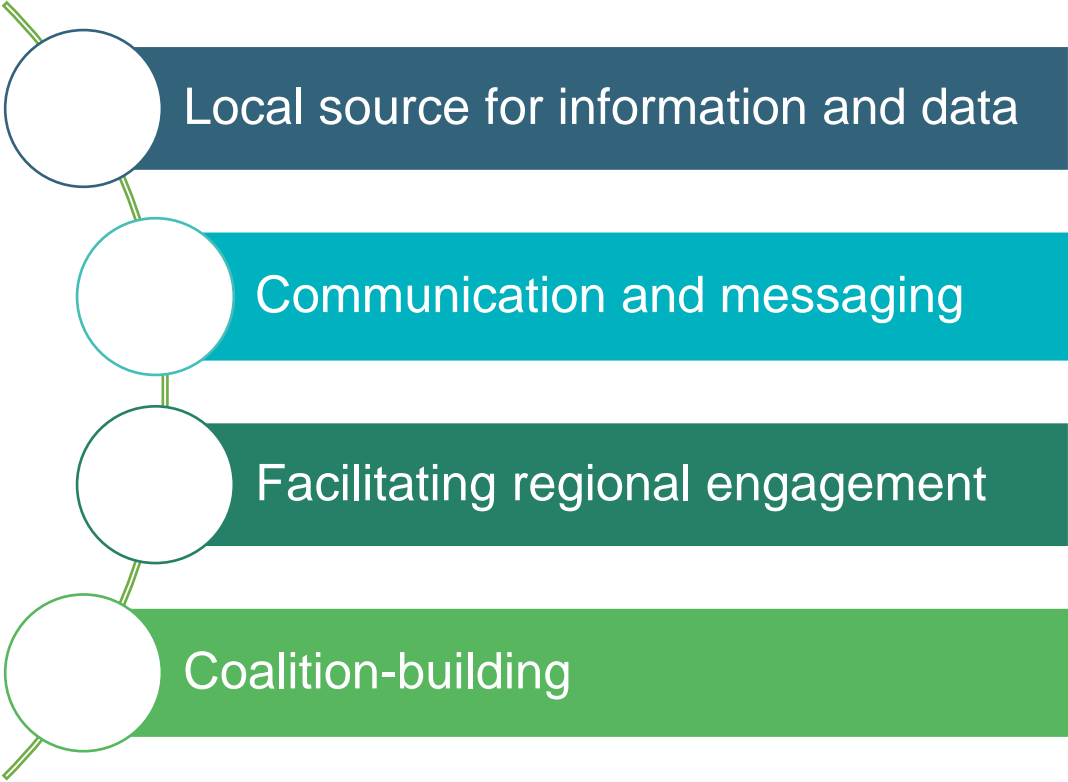
MORPC

## Membership

City of Columbus	City of Worthington	CRLC
City of Delaware	Delaware County	FCCFA
City of Dublin	Logan County	LCATS
City of Hilliard	Granville Township	Columbus Partnership
City of Marysville	COMTO	The Ohio State University
City of Newark	COTA	
City of Whitehall	CRAA	

### Guests

City of Ft. Wayne	ODOT	ORDC
HNTB	All Aboard Ohio	



# OTHER MORPC ACTIVITIES



Route planning knowledge exchanges  
(Brightline Orlando/Miami)



FRA Long Distance Service Study

- Amtrak meeting
- Statewide Passenger Rail Coalition (All Aboard Ohio)
- Legislative education and advocacy

# INTEGRATING PASSENGER RAIL WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

# INTEGRATING WITH LOCAL PLANNING

- Several communities integrating potential stations into plan updates
  - Marysville, Dublin, Hilliard, Delaware, others
- Aligning corridor development milestones with local plans
- Service development planning factors for stations



# UPTOWN STATION (BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, IL)



MORPC



# BRUNSWICK STATION (BRUNSWICK, ME)



MORPC

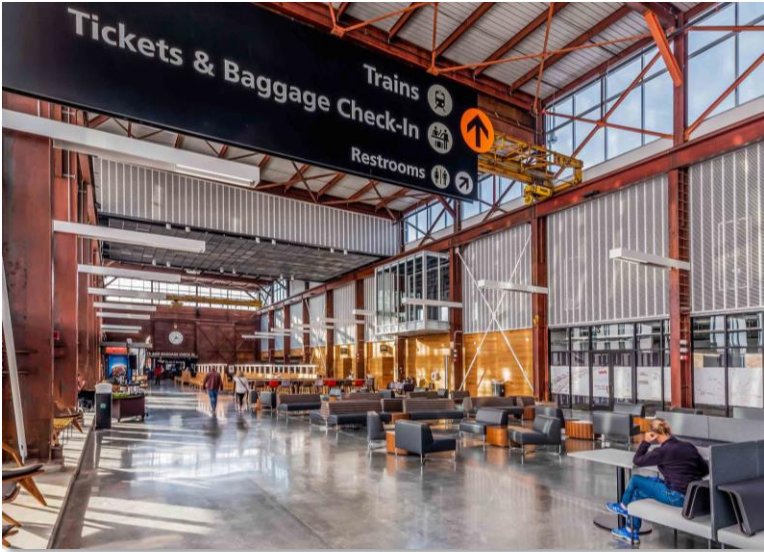


Source: Randall Arendt

# UNION STATION (RALEIGH, NC)



MORPC





## **PARAG AGRAWAL, AICP**

*Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Office  
& Senior Director of Programming*  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

**T:** 614.233.4178 | **M:** 614.701.6089

[pagrawal@morpc.org](mailto:pagrawal@morpc.org)

## **ELLIOTT LEWIS, P.E.**

*Principal Planner*  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

**T:** 614.233.4185

[elewis@morpc.org](mailto:elewis@morpc.org)



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

