

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Brian O. Martin, AICP
mvrpc.org



MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

Shaping Our Region's Future Together

September 2023

Meeting In Person with the Darke County CIC on 8/16/2024

It was a pleasure and a wonderful opportunity to be hosted by Director Mike Bowers, Darke County Commissioners, and board members of the Darke County Community Investment Corporation. While it was a journey to travel from home in Centerville to Greenville in time for a 7:30 a.m. meeting, it was well worth the trip to see numerous elected officials and business leaders working together to plan for future growth of Darke County. The high functioning CIC reminded me of our MVRPC meetings as much as any other local governmental meeting that I've attended. I invited Paul Arnold to attend this home meeting because he lives nearby and knew many in the room. Jakob Denney also attended. It was important to include Jakob because he is leaving his hometown of Greenville and the Miami Valley in a few weeks for higher study at Cardiff University in England.



The presentation content was about MVRPC, who we are, our roles and responsibilities. I presented on the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and the importance of working with MVRPC as well as ODOT to plan and advance projects in Darke County and the RTPO counties of Preble and Shelby. Darke County will be seeking funding from the state for the Versailles Bypass project. The agency will be supporting this project and I plan to speak on its behalf during the Transportation Review Advisory Council's meetings this fall.

In addition, I presented on the additional areas of the agency that we're involved with including Regional Environment and Economic Development, Community and Regional Planning, rideshare, public transit and trails and sidewalks. Ironically, the August RTPO meeting was in Dayton at 2:00 p.m. and we discussed the need for additional projects for the RTPO plan including SR 127 improvements, I-70, and other needs.

In August 2021, Darke County paid its MVRPC membership dues for three years for the county commission and several municipalities. The county is in its third year of membership. Director Bowers mentioned that it was important to lock in three years because he knew it would take a while for the staff, members, and ODOT to get organized. In 2024, we are on track to complete the RTPO transportation plan so the county was correct in its estimate for the amount of time it would take to see tangible products from membership. We look forward to working with Darke County and local jurisdictions for many years to come.

MVRPC Attends Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio Annual Meeting



MVRPC staff attended the Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio (CAFCO) annual meeting on August 8th at the Ohio University Dublin Campus. Age-friendly communities from across the state convened to discuss successes, challenges and models for implementation. Our region continues to be ahead of the curve, as we grow our age-friendly network and we are pleased to welcome two new age-friendly communities, Dayton and Vandalia, as we move into year two in partnership with the Dayton Foundation. Dayton and Vandalia will join the region's age-friendly cohort and begin their first year by developing a needs assessment to learn more about the assets, challenges and barriers to being an age-friendly community. Meanwhile, our existing age-friendly communities are wrapping up *year one and determining where to put their efforts as they move to*

year two and developing an action plan. This fall MVRPC and the Dayton Foundation are partnering with the age-friendly communities to offer a series of local events focused on topics were identified during year one.

To learn more about becoming an age-friendly community and the upcoming age-friendly events, visit MVRPC's website and agency calendar or contact Donna Kastner at dkastner@mvrpc.org. To learn more about the AARP Age-Friendly Network and view an interactive map visit, <https://livablemap.aarp.org/#/view=map>

- **Age-Friendly Kettering: Exploring the 8 Domains of Livability:** [Click here to register](#)
Sept 7, 2023 – 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Dayton Metro Library - Kettering-Moraine Branch
- **Age-Friendly Dayton: Housing as a Longevity Driver:** [Click here to register](#)
Oct 3, 2023 – 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Dayton Metro Library - Downtown Branch
- **Age-Friendly Book Talk: Doable Change:** [Click here to register](#)
Oct 26, 2023 – 11a.m. - 12 p.m. Book talk featuring local author Dean Waggenpack
- **Age-Friendly Huber Heights: Pathways to a Happy Retirement:** [Click here to register](#)
Nov 9, 2023 – 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Dayton Metro Library - Huber Heights Branch

Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign

In partnership with RETREET and Keep America Beautiful, the [Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign](#) is a multi-year effort to heal the landscape devastated by the Memorial Day 2019 tornadoes. The **FINAL** large scale tree planting effort occurring as part of the Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Volunteers are needed to plant trees for tornado impacted residents in Brookville, Harrison Township, Trotwood and Montgomery County. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. with check-in at Sinclair Park (685 Shoup Mill Road, Dayton, OH 45415). Volunteers will be taught proper tree planting techniques, then arranged into small groups that will be sent to home sites.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please use this [link](#) to register. We appreciate your assistance sharing this link on social media and through your community newsletters.



All those involved in the campaign over the last three years are also invited to attend a community celebration with Keep America Beautiful and RETREET to celebrate all the work that has been done across the region. The event is free and will begin at 6:00pm at Top of the Market. Please let us know if you will be attending by filling out this [form](#).

Region's Rivers Ranked Cleanest in the State



Our region's rivers were recently acknowledged as the best in the state for water quality. MVRPC is proud to collaborate with our regional partners and members to protect, preserve and promote our rivers and water resources, through environmental and watershed planning efforts. To learn more about our local waterways and how they've improved over the past 10 years, you can read the recent Dayton Daily News article: <https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/epa-study-quality-of-ohios-rivers-rises-dayton-area-rivers-among-states-best/2A7FFKNS7JGCXN4YWARTGESGME/>

To learn more about how to get out and enjoying our local rivers, visit the Miami Conservancy District (<https://www.mcdwater.org/river-fun/>) or the Great Miami Riverway websites (<https://www.greatmiamiriverway.com/>).

MVRPC Publicizes PLAN4Health – Miami Valley Initiative and its Progress

Over the last several months, MVRPC staff released several reports as part of the PLAN4Health- Miami Valley Initiative. The latest reports include: the [Built Environment Assessment](#); the [Built Environment Assessment Equity Analysis](#); and the [Housing Mobility & Accessibility Assessment](#).

In addition, MVRPC staff have engaged in many briefing sessions to numerous stakeholders in the region to share the latest progress of PLAN4Health – Miami Valley Initiative. They include many of our member organizations but also include many partnering organizations such as County Health Departments, higher education institutions with concentration on public health, medical service providers, and many more.

Recently, the Dayton Magazine featured an article about MVRPC's PLAN4Health – Miami Valley initiative titled "Planning for Public Health" on their Summer Edition. The article discusses how the initiative began, its accomplishments, and more and we encourage you to check out the article on page 59 on the digital edition, available at <https://www.thedaytonmagazine.com/3d-flip-book/dayton-magazine-summer-2023/>.

For the latest information on the PLAN4Health - Miami Valley initiative, visit our information hub at <https://plan4health-miamivalley-mvrpc.hub.arcgis.com/> or contact Martin Kim, MVRPC's Director of Community and Regional Planning, at mkim@mvrpc.org.



DAYTON » COMMUNITY

Planning for Public Health

MVRPC brings collaborative initiative to region

BY TERRY TROY

If the recent COVID pandemic taught us anything, it was the need to address the complex issues of public health.

Improving community health can only happen through collaborative planning and comprehensive approaches. The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) is making that happen through an initiative called its PLAN4Health - Miami Valley, which was born of an overarching national strategy introduced by the American Planners Association (APA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA).

"Actually, we were working to launch this initiative as early as 2019," says Martin Kim, director of community and regional planning for the MVRPC. But COVID had its own plans. MVRPC's planned launch in early 2020 was put on pause.

"We wanted to bring this initiative to our area as a partnership between planners and public health professionals, but with the understanding that health officials were very busy with the pandemic, everything was put on hold," says Martin. "Then we started to see the success of the vaccination efforts nationwide and that's when we said, 'OK, it's time for the PLAN4Health launch.'"

Launched in spring of 2021, PLAN4Health is in full operation, exploring how planning can impact health outcomes across the region. It is a multi-year effort focusing on projects and programs, including those that promote and advocate for health in all plans and policies, convene and engage partners to improve conditions that are known to be key determinants of health, and advance planning efforts aimed at conditions for healthy people and communities.

PLAN4Health - Miami Valley already has several important accomplishments under its belt. Its Health Environment Assessment examined the range of factors known as social determinants of health to establish a broad baseline of conditions. Its Built Environment Assessment examined active living conditions at the neighborhood level to explore how health and well-being could be improved through community and regional planning. Then it created an online information hub that can be used to examine public health data and information.

"We did it in a way where it is easy for people to see where we excel, and where we are not doing so good," says Martin. "It's in a very easy-to-use format, much like Google Maps, where you can zoom in and out and utilize maps and infographics to see where things are in our region."

Building a network of collaborative partners is what really makes the initiative work.

"We strive to collaborate with all the county public health departments," says Martin. "That includes those from Montgomery, Greene, Darke, Miami and Preble counties."

"We are also working with academic organizations like Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine as well as hospital associations and health care providers."

So far, the initiative has been receiving rave reviews from its partners and participants.

"The Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDHA) has been excited to partner with MVRPC in their work on the PLAN4Health initiative," says Lisa Henderson, vice president, Health Initiatives for the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association. "These dashboards provide insight into ways we can all work together to improve lives for the people who live, work and play in the Dayton region."

Public health officials agree.

"Making data-driven decisions is an integral part of public health's planning process to deliver programs and services at the right place and at the right time," adds Jennifer Wietzke, health commissioner, public health, Dayton and Montgomery County. "Through the collaborative process of the Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan and now PLAN4Health Miami Valley, all community partners can work together using a common set of data to improve health outcomes, not just in Montgomery County, but throughout the entire region."

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Greater Regional Mobility Initiative (GRMI) Plan Update



GREATER REGION MOBILITY INITIATIVE

The Greater Regional Mobility Initiative (GRMI) is a roadmap to improving mobility services across an 8-county region. The GRMI established in 2018, in cooperation with Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Transit, is a council of public, private, non-profit transportation providers, as well as advocates of older adults, individuals with disabilities and low-income individuals to work collectively to address transportation barriers.

The GRMI Plan will be updated in 2024. The GRMI Plan will determine how [Section 5310](#) funding will be awarded while also serving as a strategic plan to prioritize projects that address barriers in other ways; establishing partnerships, developing standards, identifying other funding sources, etc. to implement plan goals and strategies. We welcome you to join our [GRMI Plan Workshop](#) on September 5 to learn and share your feedback! For more information, contact Serena Anderson at sanderson@mvrpc.org or visit www.mvrpc.org/mobility.

Grants & Funding Resources

On a monthly basis MVRPC highlights several funding opportunities on www.mvrpc.org that could benefit your community or organization. We include a description, contact information and program links. We have also listed other valuable resources for funding opportunities for our regional jurisdictions and organizations. See more at: mvrpc.org/grant-and-funding-opportunities.

This month we are featuring information on:

- FY2023 HOPE VI Main Street Grant Program– Deadline: October 12, 2023
- NAWCA 2024 US Small Grants– Deadline: October 13, 2023

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Youra Polk at kyourapolk@mvrpc.org or 937.223.6323.

U.S. Dept. of Transportation Current and Upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO)

In order to provide stakeholders with more visibility into upcoming funding opportunities, U.S. DOT publishes anticipated dates for upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for programs within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as adjacent programs that support BIL and IRA objectives.

View the Grant Programs Calendar here: [Key Notices of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#).

Currently open and upcoming grants include:

| Opening Date | NOFO | Operating Administration | Closing Date |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Summer 2023 | Bridge Investment Program | Federal Highway Administration | N/A |
| Summer 2023 | Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program | Federal Railroad Administration | N/A |
| Summer 2023 | Thriving Communities | Office of the Secretary | N/A |

Please contact Savannah Diamond, MVRPC’s Assistant to the Executive Director at sdiamond@mvrpc.org or 937.223.6323 with your comments or questions about local and regional grant pursuits.

MiamiValleyGovJobs.org

MiamiValleyGovJobs.org is a one-stop website for candidates seeking positions with a public agency in the Miami Valley. This service is provided for MVRPC member organizations and partners at no cost. Posting your positions on MiamiValleyGovJobs.Org increases visibility of your positions and expands your candidate pool. Each job post will be displayed with your organization's logo and a link to your website where candidates can find more information. To post a position with your organization, please email your posting to JobBoard@MVRPC.Org.



Upcoming MVRPC Meetings in September 2023

Please check the agency calendar on www.mvrpc.org or contact Savannah Diamond at sdiamond@mvrpc.org or 937.223.6323 for the status of your meeting.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Staff</u> |
|-------------|-------------|---|---|--------------|
| 9/7 | 8:30 a.m. | Executive Committee | Temporary Location Dayton Metro Library 215 E. Third Street, Dayton, OH | S. Diamond |
| 9/7 | 9:00 a.m. | Board of Directors | Temporary Location Dayton Metro Library 215 E. Third Street, Dayton, OH | S. Diamond |
| 9/6 | 10:00 a.m. | Greater Regional Mobility Initiative (GRMI) | Montgomery County Business Solution Center 1435 Cincinnati Street, Suite 300 Dayton, OH 45417 | S. Anderson |
| 9/15 | 9:00 a.m. | Disaster Recovery Leadership Board | University of Dayton Fitz Center 1401 S. Main Street, Dayton OH | E. Baxter |
| 9/21 | 9:30 a.m. | Technical Advisory Committee | University of Dayton Fitz Center 1401 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH | S. Diamond |
| 9/21 | 1:00 p.m. | Miami Valley Age-Friendly Cohort | The Dayton Foundation 1401 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH | M. Lindsay |
| 9/29 | 11:30 a.m. | Regional Active Transportation Committee | Treasure Island Park 409 N Elm St, Troy, OH 45373 R.S.V.P. requested at this link | M. Lindsay |

*Meetings are sometimes canceled. Visit mvrpc.org for up to date meeting information.