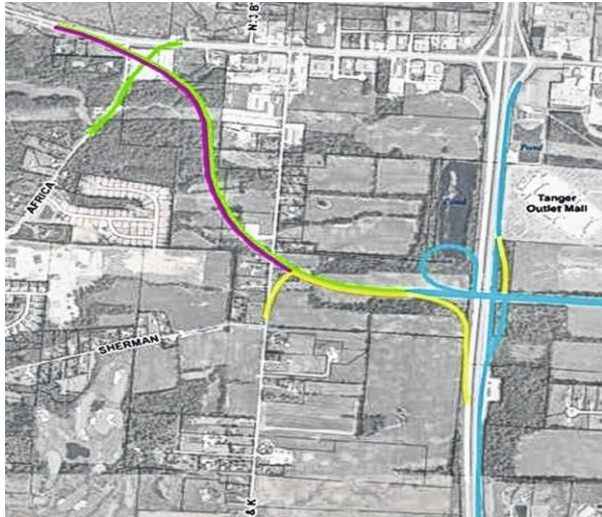


## **MORPC committed to county projects**

By Gary Budzak - March 21, 2025



This diagram shows phases B and C of Sunbury Parkway.

COLUMBUS — The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has approved more than \$52 million in new funding for infrastructure projects, it was announced earlier this month.

The commission received about \$160 million in funding requests for new transportation projects, MORPC said in a news release issued on March 14.

A list of “MORPC-Attributable Funding Proposed Projects for State Fiscal Years 2026 to 2031” has been issued in a 68-page document. A couple Delaware County projects are featured under the heading of, “Updated previous funding commitments — State Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond.”

First is the Orange Road under CSX/NS grade separation. “Construction of a four-lane railroad grade separation under the CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads,” reads the project description. This is a \$41,936,993 project to which MORPC has previously committed \$8,387,599. The commitment was adopted prior to 2022, with construction starting in SFY 2026.

The other is phases B and C of Sunbury Parkway, \$31.1 million of a \$60,383,690 total project, which MORPC has previously committed \$3 million and a construction SFY of 2027. Requested funding was \$4,646,400.

“Construction of 1.3 miles of new 4-lane divided roadway from US36/SR37 at Africa Road to the new Sunbury Parkway interchange at I-71,” said the project description. “This is Phase B & C of an overall 6-phase project to construct a companion interchange at Exit 131 similar to the Polaris-Gemini interchange to improve traffic flow and safety at the existing interchange, and to accommodate development in the nearby areas. This project will construct a multi-use path along the new roadway.”

The sponsoring agency for both of these projects is the Delaware County Transportation Improvement District. Proposed future funding commitments are the same amounts.

In addition, the City of Delaware has a State Route 37/East Central Avenue preservation project. The total project cost is \$10,506,167; previous commitment was \$2,540,554; proposed commitment is \$2,993,018; a 19% change; with construction SFY of 2026.

“This project will improve S.R. 37 on the east side of Delaware including: Reconstruction of road base; new curbs on both sides of the road; a new sidewalk on one side of the road and a multi-use path on the other side; new street lighting; new storm sewers,” the project description said.

Under the heading of, “Applications not proposed for funding” are two other Delaware County TID projects. First is the S.R. 37 and U.S. Route 42 intersection improvements, with a total project cost of \$6,942,004. Requested MORPCC funding is \$4,849,405.

This project is to improve East Central Avenue at Lake Street, which is described as a misaligned intersection. When completed, it will have “full pedestrian crossing facilities, shared-use path connection; new traffic signal; and complete streets improvements along S.R. 37 between U.S. routes 42 and 23.”

The other is the Delaware County regional paving program. The total project cost is \$6,531,216 and the requested MORPC funding is \$4,816,365.

For this paving program, a total of 13.61 miles on eight road segments in nine jurisdictions will be resurfaced in SFY 2029: Two portions of Sawmill Parkway (Delaware County/City of Powell); Wilson Road from North Galena to Carters Corners roads (Berkshire/Kingston townships); Cheshire Road from Domigan Road to routes 36/37 (Delaware County/City of Sunbury); Vans Valley Road from Sunbury Road to State Route 37 (County/Village of Galena/Sunbury); 3 B's and K Road from Plumb to Cheshire roads (Berkshire/Berlin townships); East Orange Road from South Old State to Bale Kenyon roads (Orange Township); and South Sandusky Street from U.S. 42 to U.S. 36/William Street (City of Delaware).

Seven other projects, all in Franklin County, have funding commitments:

- Big Walnut Trail (Columbus) – Cherrybottom Park to Morse Road – \$4,730,373.
- Cooke Road, Phase 2 (Glenmawr Avenue to Karl Road), Reconstruction (Franklin County) – \$9,155,409.
- East Broad Capital Trail (Columbus) – Multi-Use Path – \$9,328,863.

- East Main Street Bus Rapid Transit (Columbus) – \$14,400,000.
- Emerald Connector, New Bridge over I-270 (Dublin) – \$4,500,000.
- Southwest Regional Medical and Innovation Gateway Overpass, New Bridge over I-71 (Grove City) – \$2,625,000.
- Trabue Road at Walcutt Road (Columbus) – Intersection Improvements – \$7,382,832.

“Every two years, MORPC solicits projects to receive federal transportation funding in the MORPC transportation planning area, which includes Franklin and Delaware counties; Bloom and Violet townships in Fairfield County; New Albany, Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County; and Jerome Township in Union County,” the release said. “Eligible projects include highway improvements, public transit, bikeways, pedestrian facilities, bridges, and traffic signal upgrades. In addition to these seven projects, MORPC reaffirmed funding commitments for 41 previously approved projects and programs, bringing the total future funding to more than \$340 million.”

MORPC's funding commitments for state fiscal years prior to 2030 are incorporated in the commission's Transportation Improvement Program, which The Gazette has also written about.

#### MORPC matters

- In its own words, “The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is Central Ohio's voice. As a Regional Council with nearly 90 local governments and community partners, we provide nonpartisan data analysis, community resources, and long-range planning. Together, we drive the future prosperity and sustainability of the Central Ohio region.”
- The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is based in Columbus.
- For more information, visit [www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org).