MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission

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**Institute for Livable and Equitable Communities**
**Steering Committee Meeting**
**LOCATION:** MVRPC, 6 N. Main Street, Suite 400, Dayton, OH 45402
**DATE/TIME:** Friday, October 30, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

# Agenda

| Item | Topic | Page | Time | Presenter |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **I.** | **Call to Order and Introductions** | | 9:30 | Kristen Marks |
| **II.** | **Approval of April 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes** | 1 | 9:32 | Kristen Marks |
| **III.** | **Public Comment Period on Action Items** | | 9:35 | Kristen Marks |
| **IV.** | **RPC (Regional Planning Commission) Action Items** | | | |
| | A. **Resolution 26-31:** Approving the Recommendation to The Dayton Foundation to Fund 2026 Age-Friendly Initiative Grants | 4 | 9:40 | Arnie Biondo |
| **V.** | **Information Items** | | | |
| | A. Age-Friendly Initiative Update<br>• Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network<br>• Planning for Next Calendar Year | | 9:50 | Arnie Biondo |
| | B. Regional Equity Initiative Update<br>• Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program and Health & Environment Domain<br>• State of Black Dayton Steering Committee and Technology & Connectivity Domain<br>• Greater Region Mobility Initiative and Transportation Domain | 8 | 10:00 | Fabrice Juin |
| | C. Program & Workplan Outlook for 2027 | | 10:10 | Fabrice Juin |
| **VI.** | **Other Updates and Announcements**<br>A. Regional Equity Calendar<br>B. General Updates from the Committee | | 10:20 | All |
| **VII.** | **Adjournment** | | 10:30 | Kristen Marks |

| Next Meetings | | |
|---|---|---|
| Regional Equity Initiative | Wednesday, November 25 at 2:30 p.m. | MVRPC<br>6 N. Main Street, Suite 447 |
| Institute Steering Committee | Friday, January 29 at 9:30 a.m. | MVRPC<br>6 N. Main Street, Suite 400 |

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
**INSTITUTE FOR LIVABLE AND EQUITABLE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**
**MINUTES**

**Zoom Conference/Video Call** **April 24, 2026**
**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86304060188** **9:30 AM**

**Voting Members/ Alternates**
Laura Arber, City of Kettering
Nancy Byrge, City of Huber Heights
Brenda Fry, City of Riverside
Rap Hankins, Electric Vehicle Association of Ohio
Austin Hutchison, Village of West Alexandria
Matt Joseph, City of Dayton
Kristen Marks, Centerville-Washington Park District
Carrie Scarff, Five Rivers MetroParks
Barbra Stonerock, The Dayton Foundation

**Guests**
Dylan Rainey, City of Dayton
Alex Zaharieff, City of Huber Heights

**MVRPC Staff**
Arnie Biondo
Savannah Diamond
Fabrice Juin

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Institute Steering Committee met on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom Video Conference (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86304060188). All members and news media were notified of the meeting pursuant to the Sunshine Law.

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Kristen Marks called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

## II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 30, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Matt Joseph made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2026 Institute Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Rap Hankins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

No public comments were received.

## IV. 2026 Institute Steering Committee Officer Elections

Ms. Savannah Diamond presented the new slate of ISC officers. Laura Arber was nominated as the 2026 ISC Secretary.

Ms. Nancy Byrge made a motion to approve the slate of 2026 officers. Ms. Barbra Stonerock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## V. RPC (Regional Planning Commission) Action Items

Mr. Arnie Biondo presented information regarding Resolution 26-13: Resolution Approving the Recommendation to The Dayton Foundation to Fund the 2025 Livable, Age-Friendly Communities Grant. Mr. Biondo presented information regarding a grant request for a needs assessment to find out what the residents of Preble County would like to make their community

more age-friendly. This request would match the same $20,000 as the Miami County survey that was conducted a couple of years ago.

Mr. Biondo opened the floor for comment. Mr. Biondo was asked if the survey would include the breadth of their region, how they're going to address all the different needs. He stated that yes, it is a key consideration; this survey is a combined effort between the Preble County Council on Aging and the County itself.

Ms. Carrie Scarff made a motion to forward the recommendation of Resolution 26-13 to the Board of Directors. Mr. Rap Hankins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Age-Friendly Update

Mr. Biondo provided an update on the Age-Friendly program. He stated there are now 46 age-friendly communities in Ohio; 21 of those communities are here in the Miami Valley. This is thanks to the Del Mar Fellowship, Healthcare Fund and Dayton Foundation introducing age-friendly to different communities. Preble County, the City of Clayton, the City of Piqua and Jefferson Township are the newest communities we have added.

Mr. Biondo opened the floor for questions. Ms. Stonerock asked if Ohio had the highest number of age-friendly communities and what the goal was. Mr. Biondo answered that Georgia and California have the largest number of age-friendly communities. AARP and CAFO (Coalition for Age-Friendly Communities, Ohio) were mentioned.

### B. Regional Equity Initiative Update

Mr. Fabrice Juin provided an update on the Regional Equity Initiative. He shared progress on the Academy for Thriving Communities & the Grantmaking Program, helped by the Minneapolis Foundation, set to have a graduation in September and close out the program in October. The next session is scheduled for May, engaging and informing residents. Part of our success has been due to the Westwood Right Project CDC. Mr. Juin also reported that the REI subcommittee meeting schedule has been changed slightly.

Mr. Juin then focused on the Transportation Domain & GRMI (Greater Region Mobility Initiative) working with Serena Anderson to support Title IV coordination. There's a possibility that GRMI may not get the state's support in running the program & we may have to run it internally.

Mr. Juin opened the floor for questions. Mr. Hankins stated that a lot of these transportation programs are not being funded by Washington anymore; a lot of organizations are suing this administration and forcing them to implement funds. It's really important to go to Columbus and talk to our colleagues.

### C. Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities Workplan for FY 2026

Mr. Juin presented our work plan and the things that we are doing as a Regional Planning Commission; this includes our commitment to advancing livability and equity across the Miami Valley by convening partners and aligning efforts across key domains that support community and opportunity. The funding and resources look a lot different than they than they did before. Let us know how we can support you in your individual roles and what you do for your communities.

Mr. Juin recognized & expressed condolences to the family of Ms. Katie Meyer, of the Downtown Dayton Partnership, who recently passed away. Ms. Meyer was a big advocate for our domain of Technology and Connectivity and our regional broadband infrastructure.

## VII. OTHER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Regional Equity Calendar
- General Updates from the body
    - United Way breakfast event on April 30
    - Celebrating Earth Month and Dayton Sustainability Group

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Marks adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

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# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Institute Steering Committee

**FROM:** Brian O. Martin, AICP, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 14, 2026

**SUBJECT:** October 2026 Age-Friendly Initiative Grant-Award Recommendations

Age-Friendly Communities have responded to the encouragement from MVRPC and The Dayton Foundation (TDF) to apply for funding to conduct Needs Assessments and to implement their Age-Friendly action plans.

The proposals received, which are summarized below, address multiple Age-Friendly Domains—Outdoor Spaces, Health Services, Civic Participation & Employment, and, Social Participation

The recommendation at this date is to award five (5) grants with this cycle. There are two applications operating as a combined effort towards creating a joint Action Plan between the City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township. The other three are Phase 2 grants to help communities implement Age-Friendly goals of their respective Action Plans.

Recommendations for approval in this cycle are as follows:

***City of Beavercreek & Beavercreek Township***

The City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township will work jointly to contract with a vendor to use the Beavercreek Age-Friendly Community Survey to identify specific, achievable action steps that will have the highest positive impact for older adults. Beavercreek in collaboration with Beavercreek Township, completed their Phase 1 Needs Assessment early this year. The two agencies will continue their cooperation and collaboration by jointly crafting the Community Age-friendly Action Plan. Each agency has applied for half of the projected cost.

The City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township share a senior center and aim to build upon the foundation provided by the needs assessment, consider the services already being offered, and fill gaps to better serve the expressed needs of our aging populations. This partnership leverages the reality that aging residents from both respective member communities likely have similar aging experiences, and can benefit from a collective approach.

**Total Amount Requested: $20,000 ($10,000 each)**
**Total Project Budget: $20,000**
**Amount Recommended: $20,000 ($10,000 each)**

***City of Huber Heights***

**Age-Friendly Domains: *Social Participation; Health Services; Respect & Inclusion; Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Civic Participation & Employment.***

The City of Huber Heights is seeking funding to repair and resurface the popular walking path in Shullgate Park. Not only is this half-mile walking path heavily used by older adults, it has been adopted by the Huber Heights Senior Center members via the City's Adopt-A-Park program.

The impetus comes from the Needs Assessment call for walkability audits to rectify mobility barriers, and to make improvements to increase accessibility and expand outdoor activity. Older adults who use this path include those using canes, walkers and other mobility aids.

**Total Amount Requested: $10,000**
**Total Project Budget: $20,000**
**Amount Recommended: $10,000**

***City of Dayton***

**Age-Friendly Domains: *Housing; Community Support & Health Services; Transportation; Social Participation and Civic Engagement***

Dayton City Council recently approved their Age-Friendly Action Plan. With that approval, they are officially ready to implement their plan. This request is a collaboration with members of the Dayton Home Repair Network, specifically to build five (5) residential accessibility ramps for low-income, mobility-impaired older adults.

The project directly addresses the needs assessment's top recommendation: more age-friendly housing. It specifically targets the concern of aging in place. The City will serve as pass-through fiscal agent to Dayton Home Repair Network partners, Rebuilding Together Dayton and Habitat for Humanity.

**Total Amount Requested: $10,000**
**Total Project Budget: $10,000**
**Amount Recommended: $10,000**

***City of Vandalia***

**Age-Friendly Domains: *Health Services; Respect & Social Inclusion*; *Social Participation; Transportation; Outdoor Spaces & Buildings***

The request is to contribute to the layout and engineering design of a new, expanded facility to replace the existing Vandalia Senior Center. The intent is to connect the new Senior Center to the existing Vandalia Recreation Center. By connecting to the Recreation Center, older residents have convenient access to activities and amenities of both, without having to travel between two locations.

Vandalia expects a $100,000 State of Ohio grant, with the remaining cost of the project coming from the General Fund.

**Total Amount Requested: $10,000**
**Total Project Budget: $450,000**
**Amount Recommended: $10,000**

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**RESOLUTION 26-31**
**APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE DAYTON FOUNDATION TO FUND 2026 AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE GRANTS**

**WHEREAS**, with generous support from the Del Mar Health-Dayton Fund at The Dayton Foundation, the MVRPC Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities accepted applications in October 2026 for funding MVRPC member communities in to continue to foster more livable and age-friendly communities throughout the Miami Valley; and,

**WHEREAS**, a livable and age-friendly community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and has supportive community features and services; and,

**WHEREAS**, age-friendly communities ensure that residents have the ability to thrive at all stages of life, are able to age-in-place and age-in-community, and foster engagement in a community's civic, economic, and social wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, grants available to MVRPC member communities range from $5000 to $15,000 to support Livable & Age-Friendly Communities Action projects and programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, through the support of the Del Mar Encore Fellowship, MVRPC provides technical assistance to MVRPC member communities that are interested in pursuing Age Friendly grants; and,

**WHEREAS**, the MVRPC Institute Steering Committee voted to recommend five grants to be awarded to MVRPC communities,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hereby concurs with the Institute Steering Committee recommendations to award the Needs Assessment Livable, Age-Friendly Communities Grant as shown in the attached.

**BY ACTION OF THE** Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Board of Directors.

_____
**Brian O. Martin, AICP**
Executive Director

_____
**Robin I. Oda, Chairperson**
Board of Directors of the
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

_____
**Date**



# Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities

October 30, 2026

MIAMI VALLEY
Regional Planning Commission

# Health & Environment

- **Westwood Right Project CDC**
  - Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program funded the Academy for Thriving Communities
    - From EJA participant to bringing the learning to the neighborhood level
    - 40 graduating participants from a group ranging from 13 to 83
    - Community-wide interest in the “Don’t Be A Litterbug” campaign
    - More informed residents and stronger public service connections
- Other Notable Wins:
  - Westwood Neighborhood Strategic Plan
  - AmericaFWD National Community of Practice
  - Opportunity Zones 2.0

**Federal Judge Orders EPA to Administer Environmental Justice Grants**

A federal judge has ordered the EPA to resume distributing funds under the $2.8 billion Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant Program, rejecting the Trump administration's attempt to stall the Biden-era initiative. Judge Richard Gergel ruled that the agency must fulfill its statutory duties and disburse the grants through September 2026.

Created under the Inflation Reduction Act, the program helps vulnerable communities address issues like air pollution and extreme heat.

# Technology & Connectivity

**2026 State of Black Dayton Report**

- Will be supported by six standing work groups that correspond to the report's major sections: Education, Health & Wellness, Housing, Economic Empowerment & Wealth, Digital Access, and Criminal Justice. Each work group will bring together leaders, practitioners, researchers, and community members to review data, identify emerging issues, recommend solutions, and measure progress within its respective focus area.
- MVRPC selected to chair Digital Access workgroup; seeking leadership support from Dayton Metro Libraries and NPower.

**Digital Equity Act**

In May 2025, the Trump Administration canceled the Digital Equity Act (DEA) grant programs.

As a result of a July 2026 court decision in National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) v. Trump (Civil Action No. 25-3606), the government agreed to reinstate the DEA Competitive Grant Program but without any race/ethnicity considerations.

The federal agency in charge of the program, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is targeting a December 2026 opening for the grant application. NDIA's lawsuit is now on hold.

# Transportation

**Section 5310 Grant Workshop**

- September 14, 2026 @ Montgomery County Employment Opportunity Center
- The purpose of the Section 5310 Specialized Transportation Program is to enhance mobility for older adults and persons with disabilities by removing gaps and barriers to transportation access. The program provides federal assistance for 80% of the cost of capital projects and 50% for operating projects.

**GRMI Plan Update**

- In the spring of 2027, the GRMI plan update will be kicked off and targeted for completion in 2028.
- The beginning of the plan will involve an update to the regional mobility survey completed in 2024.
- The target is to gather feedback from the public on unmet transportation needs and barriers for the 2028-2032 plan.