

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Brian O. Martin, AICP
mvrpc.org



MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

Shaping Our Region's Future Together

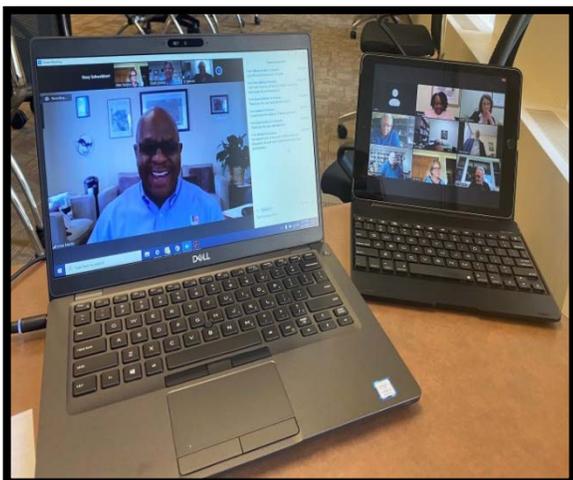
July 2, 2020

The MVRPC Regional Equity Initiative Conducts Virtual Compression Planning

Compression planning (CP) has been in the MVRPC toolbox for many years. It has been used to complete plans for creating trail maps, addressing poverty and food deserts, as well as determining the way forward for multiple environmental causes through Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment. MVRPC has used it to plan for our environmental work program and now we have used CP for Regional Equity Initiative (REI).

The REI was faced with COVID-19 and social distancing only 3 months following its kick off. After canceling the March and April meetings, the decision was to decide whether to wait on the pandemic to end or to continue our momentum through use of a video conferencing platform. We decided to try video conferencing in May.

The participants in the REI are from various business, nonprofit, and government sectors of our region and economy. We included our key Equity Leadership Team (ELT) partners in the compression plan. The ELT roster is made up of participants from the Dayton Foundation, Learn to Earn Dayton, Dayton Mayor Whaley and her staff, United Way Greater Dayton Area, and others including social scientists and diversity and inclusion experts from academia and commerce. For the compression planning session, we expanded our roster to include other sectors like parks and recreation, health care, housing, Greater Dayton Chamber of Commerce, and education. The full roster of CP participants is on committee center <https://www.mvrpc.org/committee-center>.



Normally conducted in person with flip charts, multicolor sticky dots, and index cards, this compression planning session had to make accommodations for participants not being in the same room. The way around this was through distribution of electronic surveys ahead of the compression planning sessions. We asked participants to provide their thoughts for what should be included in vision and mission statements and on a list of activities that the team and new incoming staff would work on in the first several months of the REI.

During the first session in May, our committee's louder voices made their thoughts known very well about how to eliminate racism and other disparities. In the Zoom platform, their passion made it more difficult for those new to racial equity discussions to get their thoughts into the discussion. Therefore, in June, we decided to divide the participants into three smaller groups of 8 to 10 participants with staff

facilitators with the hope of having more discussions involving the broader group. The June session worked so much better than May and it was exciting to see that more voices were involved in the dialogue.

The main takeaway from this planning process is to inform readers and members that the video conferencing platform is a valid alternative to meeting in person for planning projects even for larger groups. The 35 participants on the video conference knew that the alternative was to wait on the virus to pass which at this point is increasing in its spread here in the Miami Valley. It was important for the effort to make progress. We will be disseminating the results from the compression plan sessions in a week or two. We plan to continue meeting to continue to develop our plan and strategy for eliminating racism in the Miami Valley.

MVRPC to Administer Survey of Members

In order to garner as much delegate input as possible, MVRPC will administer a short electronic survey of its board delegates. The goal of the survey is to hear from you on your thoughts about returning to in person meetings. The Zoom virtual meetings have been really good and allow us to conduct our business but I'm sure you miss the in person dialogue and seeing one another. At nearly 80 members, we have a large Board of Directors and we would need to make special arrangements to adhere to state and CDC guidance including:

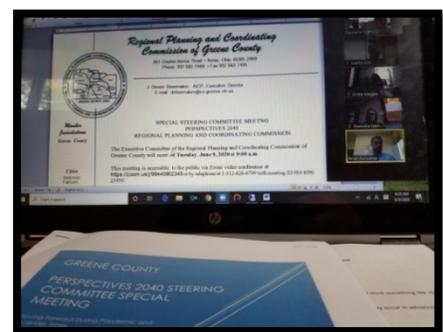
1. Masks and social distancing are required
2. More separation requires more space at the Dayton Board of Realtors
3. Possibly configuring the rooms in smaller groups of 10 and with video displays
4. Providing Audio and Video Conferencing on Zoom at every meeting

We have also been considering a board breakfast in October. The breakfast, for the delegate and a guest, would take the place of our Spring Dinner 2020 that was canceled.

Member Services Continue during COVID-19 Pandemic

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic, we all have experienced changes to a work environment, such as working from home and using virtual conference and communication tools.

Despite all these, MVRPC's interdisciplinary staff continues to provide critical planning and data services to our member organizations for their planning and policy development efforts. A few examples of our current projects include Greene County Future Land Use Plan Updates, Miami Township Comprehensive Plan Updates, and Montgomery County Land Bank Thriving Neighborhood Initiatives.

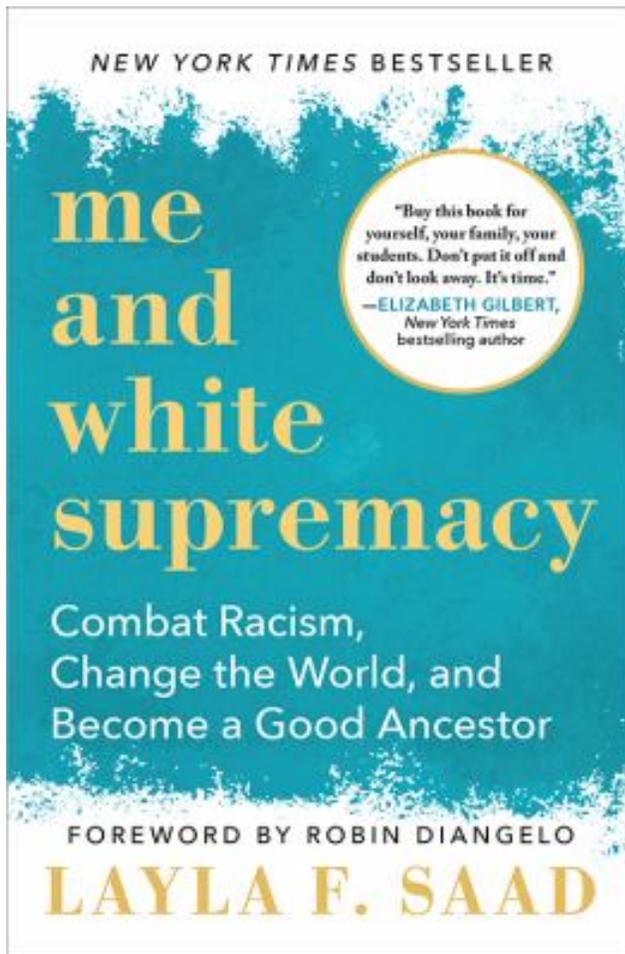


MVRPC's services supplements and expands your in-house planning capacity and they entail:

- **Research and Analytics Services** providing best practices research, perform robust data analysis, prepare data visualization materials, and provide mapping services; and
- **Consultant Procurement Support Services**, assisting with project scoping, process development, and Request for Proposals (RFP) activities.

Through a strategic partnership with MVRPC, you have access to our staff's diverse expertise and experiences. The tools we use may be different now but with our continued commitment and dedicated staff, you can rely on us for the same high quality services. For more information, visit <https://www.mvrpc.org/our-vision/planning-services>.

Executive Director Brian O. Martin to Serve on Panel for Big Read Event



Now, at this unprecedented time of coronavirus, economic stress, and a growing demand for social justice, our partners at the Dayton Metro Library and the Dayton Daily News invite the community to participate in **The Big Read** where we all read, contemplate, and discuss a single thought-provoking book.

The book ***Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor*** by Layla Saad takes readers on a 28-day journey. Each page encourages the reader to understand their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too. The book provides historical and cultural contexts, sharing moving stories and anecdotes, and includes expanded definitions, examples, and further resources.

Dayton Metro Library and the Dayton Daily News will host a live streaming **The Big Read** Panel Discussion, **Wednesday, July 8, 5 - 6 p.m.**, moderated by DDN Community Impact Editor, Amelia Robinson.

Panelists are:

- Debbie Feldman, President and CEO, Dayton Children's Hospital
- Shannon Isom, President & CEO, YWCA Dayton
- Kevin M. Kelly, Executive Director, Dayton International Peace Museum
- Brian O. Martin, Executive Director, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission

2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update-Webinar for Jurisdictions

In SFY 2021, MVRPC will be updating the Region's Transportation Plan. The Plan is "long-range" and supports all modes of transportation – roadway, freight, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian. On July 16th, following the TAC meeting, at approximately 10:15 am, MVRPC will be conducting a webinar about how to submit projects for inclusion into the Transportation Plan and answer any questions project sponsors might have about the upcoming Plan update.

MVRPC Staff Updates

As we begin the 2021 Fiscal Year, there are some well deserved promotions and recognitions among MVRPC staff.



Tawana Lynn Keels joined the MVRPC team as our Director of Finance and Human Resource Administration in February. Her expertise has been critical in recent months as we have navigated the personnel and administrative operational requirements resulting from remote work. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, she was recently released from her probationary period required of all new employees.



Mike Lucas was promoted to Manager, Information Systems and Web in recognition of the critical role he plays in continuity of operations for the agency. Mike's leadership and dedication in recent months made the transition to remote work very smooth for all staff and for our committee members.



Tom Harner was promoted to GIS Manager to better reflect his contributions to projects, programs and planning efforts throughout the agency. Tom has led the data visualization efforts for traditional planning projects as well as disaster recovery and regional equity efforts.



Laura Henry applied for a competitive scholarship to attend the National Association for Commuter Transportation (virtual) Conference being held in early August. The conference focuses on the latest trends, technology and best practices for a wide variety of commuting and emissions reductions programs worldwide. She recently learned that she was selected to receive the scholarship, which is a \$195 value. Laura's recent leadership of the OARC Rideshare Committee certainly played a role in her selection.

Grants & Funding Resources

On a monthly basis, MVRPC highlights several funding opportunities on our website that could benefit our member communities. We include a description, contact information and program links. We have also listed other valuable resources for finding funding opportunities.

See more at mvrpc.org/grant-and-funding-opportunities

This month we are featuring information on:

- Ohio VW (Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund) – Deadline: August 7, 2020.
- CommunityWINS Grant–Deadline: October 9, 2020

Ohio EPA to administer \$3.5 million in grant funds.

In support of the DeWine-Husted Administration’s principles of collaboration, innovation, and economic growth, DriveOhio, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), has finalized a study to expand electric vehicles (EV) access throughout Ohio. The *Electric Vehicle Charging Study* is available at drive.ohio.gov. If you have any questions please contact Matt Lindsay, at 937.223.6323 or mlindsay@mvrpc.org

- More information about the program can be found at epa.ohio.gov/EVCharging.

Attached is the latest grant funding opportunities specifically regarding COVID-19: This time we are featuring information on:

- Montgomery County CARES Act Grant Program (updated) – Deadline: November 30, 2020
- Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program – Deadline: none listed
- Ohio Minority Micro-Enterprise Grant Program – Deadline: none listed

If you need assistance with your grant pursuit or further research, please contact Kathryn Youra Polk, Senior Planner, at 937.223.6323 or kyoura.polk@mvrpc.org.

Upcoming MVRPC Meetings

Most meetings are being cancelled or shifted to teleconference. Please check the agency calendar on mvrpc.org or contact Teresa to find out the status of your meeting. All upcoming TAC and Board meetings will be on Zoom.

July 16 th	9:30 a.m.	Technical Advisory Committee	VIA Teleconference
August 6 th	8:30 a.m.	Executive Committee	VIA Teleconference
August 6 th	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	VIA Teleconference