

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

Guests Present

Kemo A'akhutera, ModFab, Inc.
Tania Arseculeratne, The Dayton Foundation
Peter Benkendorf, The Collaboratory
Rap Hankins, Electric Vehicle Association of Ohio
Don Hayashi, Asian American Council of Greater Dayton
Jasmine Henderson, The Good Hood Foundation
Tom Kelley, United Way of the Greater Dayton Area
Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez, City of Dayton
Adriane Miller, NCCJ
Nikol Miller, Miami Valley Urban League
Dalen Myles, University of Dayton
Nathan Owens, Greater Dayton RTA
Charles Wheeler, City of Trotwood
Demarus White, Npower

Staff

Serena Anderson
Arnie Biondo
Savannah Diamond
Bryce Gullett
Fabrice Juin
Brian O. Martin
Tonda Mingus

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee meeting on May 27th, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. at The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Office (6 N. Main Street, Suite 447, Dayton, OH 45402) & via Zoom Video Conference.

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Program Manager Fabrice Juin called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and introduced the new Subcommittee Chairperson, Executive Director Nikol Miller of the Miami Valley Urban League. Self-introductions were made by meeting participants.

II. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Program Manager Fabrice Juin provided a report on recent program activities, highlighting the work of the ongoing collaboration with the Westwood Right Project CDC via the Academy for Thriving Communities and the AmericaFWD National Community of Practice; in addition to sharing updates regarding BroadbandOhio & Broadband Equity Access & Deployment Program.

Dee Wooding was recognized as the founder of the Westwood Right Project CDC, who participated in the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Academy, and updates were shared on how the Academy for Thriving Communities is facilitating a collaborative platform for local residents to engage with the Westwood Neighborhood Strategic Plan, and towards addressing illegal dumping and other neighborhood concerns. The Westwood effort was selected for the Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program.

Program Manager Fabrice Juin also noted that various City of Dayton Commissioners (including the City Mayor) have visited the community sessions of the Academy for Thriving Communities.

III. AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE UPDATE

Del Mar Encore Fellow Arnie Biondo provided an update on the Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network, reporting that the region now has 21 Age-Friendly Communities among the 43 designated statewide. The newest additions include the City of Clayton, City of Piqua, and Preble County; each of which has submitted applications for Needs Assessment Grants.

Through the Del Mar Healthcare Fund, approximately \$65,000 in Age-Friendly community grants has been awarded to Preble County, the City of Piqua, the City of Clayton, the City of Brookville, the Village of Yellow Springs, and the City of Huber Heights. Arnie Biondo highlighted several ongoing projects, including outdoor exercise equipment in Brookville, a services brochure in Yellow Springs, and a fitness scholarship program in Huber Heights. An in-person Age-Friendly Network meeting is planned for September 15th, with a focus on Village-to-Village networks and their potential to provide services and resources to older adults.

IV. TRANSPORTATION DOMAIN

Regional Transit Programs Manager Serena Anderson discussed the State of Transit in the Miami Valley and its impact on employment and the local economy, healthcare, aging, education, and safety. Serena Anderson provided updated data from a recent transportation provider survey conducted across the eight-county region, part of The Greater Region Mobility Initiative. The survey originated from a hospital's difficulty finding local transportation providers willing and able to contract for services, particularly in rural communities, due in part to Medicaid and other reimbursement rates not adequately covering provider costs. Approximately 35 transportation providers participated and offered feedback on their challenges and needs.

The primary concern expressed was sustainable and consistent funding. Solutions and holistic perspectives are being sought with various stakeholders and partners, including support for small business development and smaller transportation providers, stronger partnerships, and improved contracting practices. MVRPC will support data collection and stakeholder coordination rather than directly leading the solutions. Serena Anderson noted an upcoming June 8th workshop to facilitate the leveraging of transportation resources more effectively and to bring the perspectives of the people into the process.

Program Manager Serena Anderson opened the floor for questions. Tom Kelley inquired whether the effort began from a non-emergency hospital transport issue and expanded from there, given that Medicaid funding does not cover provider costs. Nathan Owens of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority discussed ongoing transportation challenges, including potential federal funding reductions and the need to use on-demand service to supplement fixed-route transportation and address first- and last-mile gaps. Serena Anderson also provided an update on Greene CATS, which faces potential budget cuts for 2027 and has made significant service reductions due to financial challenges; including transitioning to on-demand service and increasing fares amid recent fare increases and a decrease in federal funding. Members discussed the broader financial challenges facing rural transit systems, the importance of filling gaps in more rural areas, and the value of monitoring transportation funding and supporting existing services.

V. ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Don Hayashi, Chair of the Asian American Council of Greater Dayton, presented information in recognition of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, providing an overview of the Council and its eight member organizations. Don Hayashi described the Council's goals of protecting the civil rights of U.S. residents, developing full participation in the democratic process, and promoting awareness and appreciation of diversity and Asian cultures in the Miami Valley.

Don Hayashi shared that he works with many different organizations and local events, such as the Dayton International Festival and the Dayton Metro Library, which serve as opportunities to promote cultural awareness and engagement. While the Miami Valley has traditionally been very

welcoming to the Asian and Pacific Islander community, Don Hayashi noted that these groups continue to face challenges; often being viewed as foreigners despite being U.S. citizens and multiple generations removed from immigration. He also highlighted the diversity within Asian American communities and the importance of recognizing differences among cultures and demographic groups.

Don Hayashi opened the floor for questions, and remarks were made regarding ongoing concerns and barriers, including proposed state legislation related to property ownership by individuals of Asian descent. Members thanked Don Hayashi for sharing the Council's work and personal historical perspectives and discussed the importance of continued engagement between the Asian American community and MVRPC.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBER UPDATES

Chairperson Nikol Miller discussed planning for the 2030 Census across the jurisdictions within Montgomery County that participated in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) operation. LUCA provides eligible jurisdictions the one opportunity to review and update the information within the Census Bureau's master address files. In 2020, only 29% of eligible jurisdictions participated in this operation. Nikol Miller noted that the operation will take place again in 2028 and emphasized that time and talent should be devoted on a larger scale toward this effort, as it directly affects how much future funding flows toward state, local community, and transportation efforts. Members discussed challenges related to Census participation—including mistrust, language barriers, and reaching hard-to-count communities—and emphasized the importance of trusted community messengers and outreach.

Kemo A'akhutera, CEO of ModFab, Inc., provided an update on obtaining the permit to build at the company's new facility in Trotwood, where it upcycles shipping containers to enable families to purchase affordable starter homes. More details will follow once the grand opening commences. Program Manager Fabrice Juin noted that mobile housing units could be a way to facilitate disaster relief efforts should the need arise.

Additional member updates included a reminder that Hispanic Heritage Month is upcoming, and information regarding Cars4Work (cars4work.org), an initiative of three Dayton-area 501(c)(3) non-profits—The Collaboratory, The Equity Center, and Impact Garage—focused on reducing transportation barriers to employment through access to reliable and affordable vehicles by working with employers, workforce development organizations, vehicle dealers, and potential vehicle donors. Demarus White provided an update on changes to Npower's workforce development programs, including new offerings in data analytics, cybersecurity, cloud training, and Tech Sync. Nikol Miller also provided a brief update on the State of Black Dayton report, noting that it is in its second review and nearing completion.

VII. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & NEXT MEETING

Members provided brief organizational and community updates, including several upcoming events: the Miami Valley Urban League 2026 Pillar Awards on June 2nd, the African American Community Fund breakfast on June 17th, and Welcome Dayton's World Refugee Day celebration on June 27th. The Subcommittee was also encouraged to review AdaptDayton, a City of Dayton Planning Division community project adapting the city's zoning rules, maps, and land-use policies to inform the future, and to encourage community participation.

Members also discussed the recently announced potential closure of the Senior Resource Center and the associated loss of jobs and valuable community resources such as Meals on Wheels and case management, along with the potential impacts on older adults and other vulnerable residents who rely on these services. Members explored opportunities for transportation and community partners to help address the potential service gaps. Finally, the Subcommittee extended well-

wishes to Mayor Yvette F. Page of Trotwood and was directed to the Regional Equity Calendar for other community engagement opportunities.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Nikol Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.