

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

Guests Present

Kemo A'akhutera, Mod Fab Inc.
Peter Benkendorf, The Collaboratory
Ellen Claiborne, Montgomery County
Taylor Curtis, YWCA Greater Cincinnati
Dennis Grant, United Rehabilitation Services
Rap Hankins, REI Chairperson
Christopher Rutledge, Access Center for Independent Living
Richard Schultze, Concerned Citizen
Stephanie Van Hoose, REACH Indigenous Advocacy
Tiara Wright, Miami Valley Urban League

**November 25, 2025
2:30 p.m.**

Staff

Serena Anderson
Arnie Biondo
Savannah Diamond
Bryce Gullett
Fabrice Juin
Matthew Lindsay
Brian O. Martin

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee meeting on August 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and via Zoom Video Conference.

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Rap Hankins called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

II. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Program Manager Fabrice Juin provided a report of recent program activities and efforts since the previous quarterly meeting. The updates included the following topics.

Since 2019, The Dayton Foundation has played a leading role in convening the stakeholders that conceptualized the Institute for Livable & Equitable Communities; and has served as our primary regional partner in action and funding provision. In 2025, the Dayton Foundation has awarded transition funding as the Institute establishes program sustainability and agency. This transition funding prioritizes the convergence of Age-Friendly Initiatives and the Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network, with the Regional Equity Initiative and the REI Subcommittee. The Dayton Foundation will continue to offer a Del Mar Encore Fellow and facilitate the funding of Age-Friendly grants.

The Great Lakes Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program—co-administered by the Minneapolis Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency—has a program goal of lifting up community-led innovation and strengthening community-based groups' grants for environmental and public health efforts in underserved communities. The Miami Valley Regional Planning served as the lead applicant in partnership with the Westwood Right Project CDC, led by Environmental Justice Academy graduate Dee Wooding. The application was selected for a Tier 1 award; representing a one-year grant for \$150,000 for assessment and engagement efforts that increase understanding of the breadth, depth, or impact of local environmental or public health issues. Eligible activities included public engagement and public education to improve collective understanding of community challenges, needs, and opportunities. The regional Community-First Energy Plan will also be leveraged to explore how disadvantaged communities can "build (back) better".

Regarding the three prioritized domains selected by the Subcommittee and approved by the Institute Steering Committee, the Transportation domain is the first focus. The

Greater Region Mobility Initiative (GRMI) will be the main program of focus because of the existing alignment of livability and equity with REI.

III. GREATER REGIONAL MOBILITY INITIATIVE

Regional Transit Programs Manager Serena Anderson was re-introduced. Serena leads the GRMI, and provided a presentation on the program that included the following information:

Ms. Anderson explained the GRMI is an MVRPC-led effort in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Transit. GRMI's purpose is improving coordination among transit providers by enhancing travel options for non-driving populations. Much of the public transportation available in Ohio is based on single-county transit systems which operate within defined geographic boundaries. This fragmented system of public transit creates unmet needs between service areas for non-driving dependent populations.

GRMI coordinates the Greater Region Transportation Coordination Plan to identify solutions that improve transportation. The Plan is a roadmap to building a regional effort to coordinate transportation and positively increase mobility for all people. The plan identifies community transportation resources, compiles statistics of the target population, identifies transportation needs, and outlines strategies to fill gaps and reduce duplications of service.

Ms. Anderson mentioned the Greater Region Mobility Alliance was formed to implement the goals and strategies of the plan. The Greater Region Mobility Alliance is a group of public, private, and non-profit transportation providers and seniors and individuals with disabilities who work together to solve gaps in transportation services within an 8-county region.

After the presentation, Dennis Grant shared United Rehabilitation Services has benefitted greatly from the GRMI. Dennis also asked follow-up questions about the 5310 funding cycle and expressed that a priority concern relates to cross-county transportation and rural services.

IV. AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE UPDATE

Program Manager Fabrice Juin expressed the current effort to better align the Regional Equity Initiative with the Age-Friendly Initiative. Del Mar Encore Fellow Arnie Biondo then provided details on the recent activities of the Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network (MVAFN); including recent network meetings and the Age-Friendly grant application cycle. Mr. Biondo shared that the MVAFN would be ending the calendar year with eighteen total member jurisdictions.

Chairperson Rap Hankins emphasized the importance of the Age-Friendly Initiative and the Miami Valley Age-Friendly Network as a non-controversial lens in pursuing livable and equitable communities. Dennis Grant added that it will be important to consider age-friendliness beyond transportation, to include topics like housing.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBER UPDATES

Program Manager Fabrice Juin shared that the Dayton United for Human Rights group is creating a "Dayton Asset Mapping Project". Also known as "The People's Map", the pilot study looks for techniques to amp and share the strengths, talents, resources, and connections to make the Dayton region stronger. For more information, Mr. Juin encouraged the Subcommittee to contact Dayton United for Human Rights.

VI. NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Chairperson Rap Hankins introduced local Indigenous leader Stephanie Van Hoose to share on Native American Heritage Month and her community efforts to commemorate the occasion.

This year, REACH Fest—the Native American Heritage Festival—was hosted from November 13th to November 16th at the Recreational Center in Washington Township. This year, REACH Fest was a festival dedicated to cultural diplomacy featuring outstanding artists, speakers, and performers. This year's Indigenous showcase centered on Cultural Arts Diplomacy through storytelling. By listening, learning, and honoring one another's traditions, we create pathways for shared understanding among diverse cultures and nations.

VII. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & NEXT MEETING

Program Manager Fabrice Juin encouraged the Subcommittee to take advantage of the events and opportunities listed within the Regional Equity Calendar and he highlighted Black History Month coming in February.

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairperson Rap Hankins adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.