



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Proponent Testimony – House Resolution 236
Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
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Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about House Resolution 236, which supports and encourages transportation innovation through Hyperloop technology.

I am the director of transportation systems & funding at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), an association of more than 60 political subdivisions that provides programs, services, and funding related to transportation, energy, data, and economic growth in the Columbus Region. Our goal is to connect Central Ohio's people and products to each other, to jobs, and to the global market.

As part of this effort, MORPC recently responded to the Hyperloop One Global Challenge – an open call to put forward a comprehensive economic and transportation proposal to be considered as one of the first regional corridors to use Hyperloop technology. This technology is a new mode of transportation that is being developed to move freight and people quickly, safely, on demand, and direct from origin to destination. Passengers or cargo are loaded into the Hyperloop vehicle, or pod, and accelerate gradually via electric propulsion through a low-pressure tube. The pod quickly lifts above the track using magnetic levitation and glides at airline speeds for long distances due to ultra-low aerodynamic drag.

MORPC responded to the Hyperloop One Global Challenge as a result of our ongoing planning and coordination efforts to improve connectivity with neighboring regions. We submitted a proposal called Midwest Connect, a corridor between Chicago and Pittsburgh via Columbus. As no direct highway or passenger railway serves this corridor today, this route forges a non-redundant intercity connection linking some of the strongest performing regions and transportation hubs of the Midwest. Think of getting from Columbus to either Pittsburgh or Chicago in less than 30 minutes. After fielding 2,600 registrants in five months, Hyperloop One announced our proposal as one of 10 winning proposals from around the world. Since then, Richard Branson's Virgin Group has invested in Hyperloop One – making it Virgin Hyperloop One – and we have begun to discuss next steps with them.

The support of Ohio's leadership for HR 236 will signal that we are a state that is open to innovation in transportation and technology. Supporting Hyperloop technology through the Midwest Connect and other corridors of the state is an addendum to Ohio's long-standing support and contribution to modern transportation technology. House Resolution 236 acknowledges that Ohio leaders understand the potential for its residents and businesses when they save time and money on transportation. With our local innovation in smart infrastructure and the significant amount of freight moving through the state, Ohio is the perfect place to pursue opportunities with the emerging Hyperloop technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this exciting next step in the future of transportation. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.