

AHMAD D. AL-AKHRAS, Ph.D., P.E., P.T.O.E.

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Dr. Al-Akhras is the Assistant Director of Transportation at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). In his capacity, he is responsible for directing the technical activities of the livability section of the Transportation Department which includes travel demand modeling, transit planning and travel demand management.

Appointed by City Council, Dr. Al-Akhras chairs the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission, created by City of Columbus to broaden the approach to finding solutions to the issues surrounding neighborhood livability. The Commission assists in crafting policies for traffic calming, shared-use paths, multi-way stops, traffic signal timing, and school walking routes.

Dr. Al-Akhras holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Ohio State University and has 20 years of experience in traffic, planning and engineering concepts and systems analysis.

His technical expertise include Traffic and Transportation Engineering Concepts, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Strategic and Long Range Multimodal Transportation Planning, Alternative Analysis, Congestion Management Systems, Statistical Concepts and Methods, Communication with Various Audiences.

Dr. Al-Akhras is an ASCE fellow and an ITE fellow. He is the past president of ITS-Ohio and a member of the ASCE Transportation Operations Committee. Dr. Al-Akhras is a graduate of Leadership Ohio and Leadership Columbus and an inductee to the Leadership Columbus Hall of Fame.

A recent inductee to the Leadership Columbus Hall of Fame, Dr. Al-Akhras is recognized for his demonstrated leadership <http://www.leadershipcolumbus.org/ABOUT/history.asp>. He is also a graduate of the Public Policy Facilitation Program, designed to increase the use of collaborative problem solving to address public policy issues.

A community leader, Dr. Al-Akhras works to dispel the pervasive stereotypes many Americans have about Arabs and Muslims. Dr. Al-Akhras serves on the Advisory Board of the McMaster School for Advancing Humanities at Defiance College <http://www.defiance.edu/>, serves on the City of Columbus Community Relations Commission <http://community.ci.columbus.oh.us/>, the Community Refugees and Immigration Services of Ohio (CRIS-Ohio) <http://www.cris-ohio.com/>, and recently, he was installed to serve on the executive committee of the Ohio Conference of the NAACP www.naacp.org. He serves on the state board of Ohio Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union www.acluohio.org. Dr. Al-Akhras helped establish, and served for seven years on the Board of Education of Sunrise Academy, a private elementary school in the city of Hilliard <http://www.sunriseacademy.net/>. In addition, Dr. Al-Akhras and his colleagues established the International Academy of Columbus www.internationalacademies.net, a charter school serving the disadvantaged and immigrant community.

Education

- Ph.D. Civil Eng'g, Transportation. Minor: Statistics. Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1997.
- M.S. Civil Engineering, Transportation, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1992.
- M.S. Industrial Engineering, Engineering Management, University Of Jordan, Amman, Jordan, 1991.
- Higher Studies Diploma, Industrial Engineering, University Of Jordan, Amman, Jordan, 1990.
- B.S. in Civil Engineering, University Of Jordan, Amman, Jordan, 1984.

Professional Registration and Affiliation

- Registered Professional Engineer, States of Ohio and Kentucky
- National Institute for Engineering Ethics
- American Society of Civil Engineers, Fellow
- ITS Ohio, Past President
- Institute of Transportation Engineers, Fellow
- ASCE's Transportation Operations Committee
- Professional Traffic Operations Engineer