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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Congratulates Business First's 40 Under 40 Award Winners Thea Walsh and Rory McGuiness

(Columbus – April 28, 2017) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is proud to recognize Thea Walsh, director of Transportation Systems and Funding and Rory McGuiness, vice-chair of the MORPC Board for winning Business First's 2017 40 Under 40 Award. Out of 283 nominations, two of MORPC's best and brightest leaders rose to the top.

Business First's 40 Under 40 Award recognizes individuals leading the way in business and community involvement in Central Ohio. Candidates are evaluated on the reason for nomination, career achievements, community involvement, and awards and recognition.

Walsh is one of the youngest transportation directors in the country at a major regional transportation planning organization. She manages a large technical team, staffs several community boards, runs services touching Central Ohio's 15 counties, and leads programs with \$33 million in annual funding for transportation projects and services that are changing the fabric of Central Ohio's transportation. Over the past year, Walsh directed a transportation team impacting the Columbus area by organizing an effort that secured a semi-finalist position in the Hyperloop One Global Competition and developing a pilot program that ultimately could bring transit passes to most Downtown workers.

McGuiness, deputy director for Administration for City of Columbus' Department of Development, is a leader on the MORPC Board as its vice-chair. He currently serves as chair of the MORPC Executive Committee and By-laws Committee and as a member of the Nominating and Benefits and Compensation Committees. His excellent work on By-Laws resolved a years-long challenging issue over representation. He is a leader in MORPC's efforts to make Central Ohio and Smart Columbus a major guiding force in our region's future transportation system.

"We are extremely proud to have Thea and Rory as leaders on our MORPC team," states William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director. "Their special contribution to the organization and our board consistently brings steady, informed expertise and new ideas to make MORPC a better place to work and to make us a stronger organization in our service to Central Ohio."

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The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations which envisions and embraces innovative directions in economic prosperity, energy, the environment, housing, land use, and transportation. Our transformative programming, services and innovative public policy are designed to promote and support the vitality and growth in the region.

Working to Build a Better Region

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