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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Seeks Comments on TRAC Projects

(Columbus–Aug. 31, 2017) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is soliciting comments on three projects seeking funding from the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The TRAC has accepted Major/New Project applications for their 2017 project selection round. Major/New Projects are transportation projects that have a total project cost greater than \$12 million and which “add transportation capacity, and are critical to the mobility, economic development, and quality of life of the citizens of Ohio”.

The three TRAC projects from the MORPC area include:

- **Delaware County: I-71 and Big Walnut Interchange**
This project proposes a third interchange (Exit 124) at I-71 and Big Walnut Road in Delaware County to address the County's goal to improve access to the interstate system and resident, business, recreational and freight mobility. Work includes an additional lane on I-71 north from Exit 121 to proposed Exit 124 and local road improvements near the interchange.
This TRAC request is for Tier II status only and does not include a funding request at this time.
- **ODOT District 6: I-270 and U.S. 23 (South Side) Interchange**
This project proposes improvements to the U.S. 23 and I-270 interchange on the south side of the outerbelt. The project will improve safety, capacity, and operation of the interchange by removing two cloverleaf ramps and installing two new signalized ramps. The improvements will also involve the rehabilitation of two structures, and resurfacing of portions of I-270 and U.S. 23.
Requesting \$12.1 million to advance construction of the project.
- **ODOT District 6: U.S. 36/SR 37/I-71 Interchange Improvements**
This interchange improvement project includes additional ramps and a new east-west regional route to alleviate congestion.
Requesting \$10 million for construction.

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One-page fact sheets on the three projects are available [here](#). Please provide comments or any additional information to set the priorities, including advantages and/or disadvantages of particular projects. MORPC will review and consider comments during the prioritization. We anticipate recommending regional priorities for adoption during the October business meetings (starting October 2 with the Community Advisory Committee). These priorities will be transmitted to TRAC by October 12.

Please send comments in writing to the attention of Dina López, Transportation Systems & Funding, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, fax (614-233-0750), or e-mail (dlopez@morpc.org) to arrive by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

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The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations that 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.