



Contact: **Bernice Cage**
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Awards Four Communities with Technical Assistance

(Columbus – Sept. 7, 2017) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) awarded technical assistance to four Central Ohio communities - cities of Delaware, Westerville, Worthington, and Violet Township.

The insight2050 Technical Assistance Program (TA Program), funded through MORPC's Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP), provides MORPC staff assistance to local government members within the transportation planning area of Delaware and Franklin counties, Bloom and Violet townships in Fairfield County, New Albany, Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County, and Jerome Township in Union County.

Through the TA Program, staff will assist member communities with specific planning services related to the findings of insight2050 and goals of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan such as transportation, air quality, traffic, and other projects that support consideration of transportation in land use planning and/or demonstrate the benefits of various modes of transportation.

"The insight2050 analysis shows how a focused approach to growth benefits Central Ohio residents, their local governments, and the environment through context-sensitive infill and redevelopment opportunities and expanded transportation options," said Kerstin Carr, MORPC's Director of Planning & Environment. "With the TA Program, MORPC will provide staff assistance to its member communities as they develop plans and policies that allow them to achieve more of those benefits, including a reduction in vehicle miles traveled and enhanced economic competitiveness."

The four projects that received the award through a competitive application process include:

City of Delaware Comprehensive Complete Streets Policy

Delaware has experienced high residential growth over the past three decades with the local population anticipated to exceed 40,000 by 2020. The changing demographics demand larger pedestrian and bike friendly facilities that provide opportunity to travel throughout the community for work, business and recreational opportunities. A complete streets policy will aid in identifying improvements to be made to existing and proposed roadway networks.

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Working to Build a Better Region

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org

City of Westerville Brooksedge Office Park Redevelopment Plan

Brooksedge is one of the strategic locations for smart growth identified in the 2017 Westerville Community Plan. With over 200 acres, the buildings and sites are underutilized yet access to I-270, South State Street, existing public transit, and the existing historic rail right-of-way make this an opportune location for "suburban retrofit". Brooksedge is prime for mixed use development. The development would create a live-work community that would attract employers and employees alike, while reducing vehicular trips and providing opportunities for alternative means of transportation.

City of Worthington Formal Complete Streets Policy

Worthington is home to many multi-use trails, dedicated bike paths and some marked, shared roadways. However, no formal policy exists to connect and ensure current bike and pedestrian infrastructure is adequately integrated into the entire community. The policy will facilitate the connection of bike and pedestrian friendly infrastructure, and encourage these modes of transportation citywide.

Violet Township Refugee Road/Pickerington Road Corridor Master Plan

Over the last decade, the Refugee Road corridor has experienced a significant amount of growth with housing subdivisions and automobile-centric retail centers representing past development trends. Refugee Road continues to be a high-pressure growth area, but the demand for smaller, compact, mixed-use walkable communities has increased. The township seeks to integrate these new developments into the existing landscape. The Refugee and Pickerington Road Corridor Master Plan will provide context-sensitive solutions for connecting this mixed-use community into the broader transportation network.

For more information on insight2050 TA Program, visit www.morpc.org/our-region/insight2050.

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.