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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## OARC Candidates Forum to Feature Lieutenant Governor Taylor and Sharen Neuhardt

**(Columbus – August 21, 2014)** In one of the first major events of the 2014 political campaign season, the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) is hosting a forum featuring Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor and candidate for Lieutenant Governor Sharen Neuhardt on Friday, August 22, 2014 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. Lt. Governor Taylor and Candidate Neuhardt will discuss and answer questions from attendees related to transportation, infrastructure, job creation and economic development. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a moderated question and answer session with both candidates. The event is being hosted by the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC), an association of 23 regional councils that coordinate and work to streamline statewide services at the regional level, leverage federal resources and serve as stewards of Ohio's limited resources.

The following is an outline of the OARC Candidates' Forum event:

9–10AM	Registration and Networking
10–10:15AM	Welcome Remarks by Steve Poggaili, President of OARC Board
10:15–11:15AM	Morning Keynote Address with Sharen Neuhardt, Lt. Governor Candidate (Remarks and moderated Q&A) - confirmed
11:30AM–1PM	Luncheon program of national speakers on Transportation/Jobs/Economic Development Topics
1–2PM	Afternoon Keynote Address with Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor (Remarks and moderated Q&A) - confirmed
2PM	Closing Remarks (adjourn by 2:15pm)

The event's luncheon program features a panel discussion entitled, *"Ohio's Future – The Critical Role of Transportation, Jobs and Regions."* Moderated by William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the following nationally renowned speakers will discuss challenges, opportunities and innovations facing Ohio in the next four years:

- Teresa Lynch, Mass Economics, Owner/Principal, has worked on transformative, large-scale urban economic development projects across the U.S. She is recognized for her work on thought leadership on existing and emerging opportunities to increase jobs and entrepreneurship in U.S. cities.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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- Beth Osbourne, Transportation for America, Vice President, understands the difficulty in obtaining funding for innovative transportation projects and just how crucial these projects are to local communities. Previously serving as a key leader in policy in the U.S. Department of Transportation as Deputy Assistant Secretary and then Acting Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Osbourne currently directs Transportation for America's on-the-ground work with local communities seeking to invest in the infrastructure required for their, and the country's, continued economic prosperity.
- Judge Gary Moore, National Association of Regional Councils, President, has a long career in fostering regional cooperation and success. He serves as president of the board of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), which provides a national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues.
- Simon Kennedy, McKinsey & Company, Associate Partner, works with leading organizations across the private, public and social sectors on a number of cross-cutting issues and creating transformational change. Kennedy is a leader in McKinsey's Public Sector and Economic Development Practices. Previously, Kennedy has advised a former U.S. President and International Prime Minister on international economic development strategy.

Other sponsors of the event include:

American Council of Engineering Companies – Ohio  
Buckeye Hills – Hocking Valley Regional Development District  
Greater Ohio Policy Center  
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Ohio Aviation Association  
Ohio Economic Development Association  
Ohio Public Transit Association  
Women's Transportation Seminar