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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Announces New Director of Transportation Systems and Funding

(Columbus-June 19, 2014) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is pleased to announce Thea J. Walsh as the new director of Transportation Systems and Funding starting July 7, 2014. Walsh's responsibilities as the Transportation Study Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will include coordinating regional transportation planning goals, objectives, policies, priorities, and progress for the development and growth of public transportation systems and infrastructure for the region. In addition, she will manage MORPC's attributable federal transportation funding and grants program that brings approximately \$33 million to the region on an annual basis.

Walsh currently serves as Deputy Chief in the Community Services Division at the Ohio Development Services Agency. She has extensive experience working on transit-oriented development for statewide passenger rail stations and has made economic development recommendations for the Ohio Department of Transportation's Major New Projects Program to the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC).

In addition, Walsh has experience managing a budget of over \$3 million in operations and more than \$300 million in annual projects and programs, including community infrastructure grants and financing tools and innovative programs like the Local Government Innovation Fund. She brings to the position over a dozen years in administrative and management experience in public administration and transportation planning.

Walsh has prior experience as a transportation director at the Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordination Committee, a metropolitan planning organization located in Springfield, Ohio. As director, she led the development of the long-range transportation plan, the transportation improvement program and the planning work program.

"We're excited to bring such an experienced and creative leader in transportation, community infrastructure, and local government to direct MORPC's critical transportation systems and funding programs for Central Ohio," states William Murdock, MORPC's Executive Director. "Thea is a recognized expert in transportation and infrastructure programs in Ohio and understands how a safe, efficient transportation system with diverse options supports the vibrancy of our region's economy, contributes to financial stability for families, and improves the quality of the environment."

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Working to Build a Better Region

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"I have always admired the work of the planning and engineering professionals at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, states Walsh. "It is a true privilege to be selected to join the MORPC Transportation Team and serve the fastest growing region in Ohio. Under the leadership of Executive Director William Murdock, I look forward to moving ahead progress towards a safe and effective multi-modal transportation system in the region. "

Walsh attended Miami University and received a degree in Public Administration and Urban and Regional Planning and a Masters in Public Administration from Wright State University.

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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.