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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Seeks Comments on Prioritizing Transportation Projects

(Columbus – August 9, 2010) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is seeking comments on prioritizing five projects seeking selection or 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 2010 project selection round. Major/New Projects are transportation projects that have a total project cost greater than \$5 million and do one or more of the following:

- increase mobility
- reduce congestion
- provide connectivity
- increase the accessibility of a region for economic development
- increase the capacity of a transportation facility

The five TRAC projects to be prioritized from the MORPC area include:

- **City of Columbus: Downtown Columbus Bus Transit Center**
New transit center for downtown Columbus that will include transit, bike, and parking facilities
Total Cost: \$45.45 million/TRAC Application: \$7.45 million
- **City of Pataskala: Pataskala Corporate Park Rail Spur**
Rail spur to serve the Job Ready Site in Pataskala
Total Cost: \$5 million/TRAC Application: \$4.95 million
- **ODOT District 6: I-71/US 36/SR 37 Interchange Modifications**
Interchange modifications to potentially spur development
Total Cost: \$114.125 million/TRAC Application: \$5 million
- **ODOT District 6: I-71 Widening**
Widen the remaining section of I-71 between Cleveland and Columbus
Total Cost: \$68.034 million/TRAC Application: \$0
- **Pickaway County Engineer's Office: Pickaway East/West Connector**
The backdoor to the Rickenbacker logistics facility, a new road between Rickenbacker and US 23
Total Cost: \$51.08 million/TRAC Application \$2.7 Million

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MORPC anticipates recommending regional priorities for adoption during the September business meetings with final approval at MORPC's Policy Committee on September 16 at 1:30 p.m. These priorities will be transmitted to TRAC shortly thereafter and a presentation of them will be made to TRAC in the fall.

For more information visit morpc.org/trac. Comments can be sent to the attention of Daniel Haake by letter, fax (614-233-4249), or e-mail (dhaake@morpc.org) to arrive no later than August 27.

MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.