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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to Review draft Objectives and Targets for 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(Columbus – January 26, 2015) In order to determine future transportation needs, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is developing the 2016-2040 Columbus Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The 2016-2040 MTP is for the MORPC transportation planning area, including 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. The MTP will include highway, pedestrian, bikeway, and public transportation facilities including improvements identified by the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and Delaware Area Transit Agency (DATA Bus). Federal funding may be sought in the future for projects included in the MTP. The MTP will consider effects upon low-income and minority residents and will include an air quality conformity analysis. The plan is for horizon year 2040.

In December 2014, the following Goals were adopted and used as the foundation for drafting measureable objectives with targets to gauge the progress in achieving the goals of the MTP:

Through transportation:

1. Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies
2. Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community
3. Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally
4. Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life
5. Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures
6. Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people

The following draft Objectives were developed that reflect tangible, measurable ways the goals of the MTP can be achieved. Short and long term targets were assigned to the objectives to help focus the transportation planning efforts. Progress on each objective will be tracked and reported annually. The draft objectives, benchmarks and targets can be viewed on our website at www.morpc.org/MTP or a copy can be requested by calling 614-233-4157.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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Goals	Objectives
Through transportation: Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduce percentage of commuters driving alone, and increase percentage of commuters riding transit, bicycle, or walking. -Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita. -Increase the percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels.
Through transportation: Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduce emissions from mobile sources to continuously meet EPA air quality standards for each criteria pollutant. -Decrease the locations of freeway and expressway facilities that are at risk for flooding.
Through transportation: Position central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase the average number of jobs reachable within 20 minutes via automobile and within 40 minutes via transit. -Minimize the percentage of total vehicle miles traveled under congested conditions. -Minimize the amount of travel time uncertainty when planning expected trip travel time.
Through transportation: Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Encourage and support MORPC member communities to adopt complete streets policies or policies that contain those elements. -Target roadway infrastructure development to serve a higher number of people and jobs and increase sidewalk coverage of arterials and collectors. -Target transit and bikeway infrastructure development to serve a higher number of people.
Through transportation: Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the percentage of funding from non-public sources on transportation projects on functionally classified collectors and above. - Increase the number of innovative initiatives utilized for projects on functionally classified collectors and above. - Increase the percentage of functionally classified collectors and above facilities employing coordinated Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies. - Increase the number of transit vehicles and facilities with surveillance capabilities and increase the miles of functionally classified collectors and above facilities with video surveillance.
Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize the difference in trip travel time for disadvantaged populations relative to the regional trip travel time. - Maintain infrastructure in a state of good repair by minimizing the percentage of bridges with poor General Appraisals, minimizing pavement miles in unacceptable conditions, maintaining transit fleet of a useful life, and incorporating bike facilities. - Reduce the number of fatal crashes and serious injury crashes.

Submit comments to MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Attn: Thea Walsh, by 5 p.m., before Friday, February 20, 2015 or by email to mtp@morpc.org.

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.