

MAKING STRIDES – PEDESTRIAN BEST PRACTICES 2005 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Making Strides – Pedestrian Best Practices 2005” compiles best practices from across the country regarding pedestrian mobility. The document is intended for local communities to use in the development or improvement of pedestrian facilities and programs.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) first produced this guide as Pedestrian Facilities: Best Practices 1999. Since that time new trends, updated federal access regulations and local interest in improving the walking environment have generated the need for a revised Best Practices guide. This update is designed to provide communities with the most recent techniques to enhance overall walkability through both policy and infrastructure improvements.

BACKGROUND: For the last few decades, urban development and planning in the region, as in the rest of the country, has been focused on the efficient movement of automobiles and freight. This has resulted in the building of high capacity roads for moving increasing numbers of vehicles more quickly.

Like the rest of the country, the central Ohio region has witnessed its share of suburbanization and auto-oriented development. More recently, there has been concerted interest in improving the health of the region’s communities. Central Ohio has a wealth of healthy neighborhoods, some with historic origins and others with more recent beginnings. Some of these communities have set a precedent for the rest of the region in including pedestrians and bicyclists in their planning activities. Efforts at regional planning are also underway to enhance and improve the livability of the region.

The political and administrative agencies are making efforts towards coordinated, cooperative development. In order to prevent healthy neighborhoods from deteriorating and to revitalize the holistic character of these communities, MORPC is seeking to improve the dissemination of good pedestrian practices in the region. This update is our effort to continue coordinating an equitable and comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system for the region.

TEA-21, and ISTEA before it, require the development of a regional transportation plan for all large urban areas. MORPC is in the process of updating the Transportation Plan for the Columbus region. This Best Practices document is part of the development of the regional pedestrian plan, a part of the regional Transportation Plan. The Pedestrian Best Practices provides detailed recommendations that local governments can use to achieve the goals and objectives of both their own pedestrian programs and the regional pedestrian plan.

CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENT: This “Best Practices” provides an overview of MORPC’s recommendations in regards to pedestrian facilities and policies. Pedestrian facilities and safety statistics set the context for recommended strategies. Additionally, it explains legal requirements and outlines basic types of funding available for pedestrian facilities.