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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to Review draft Evaluation Criteria for 2016 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(Columbus – April 7, 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 Plan will include highway, pedestrian, bikeway, and public transportation facilities including improvements identified by the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). Federal funding may be sought in the future for projects included in the Plan. The Plan will consider effects upon low-income and minority residents and will include an air quality conformity analysis. The plan is for horizon year 2040.

The six regional goals for the Plan were adopted:

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

Evaluation criteria have been developed to assure consistency between the Plan recommendations and the goals. These criteria will be applied to each candidate transportation project considered for inclusion in the 2016-2040 MTP. Transportation projects must be included in the Plan in order to be eligible for federal funds.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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“The criteria are just one piece of information used to determine the projects to be included in the Plan. The projects to be included in the transportation plan will also be shaped by member and public input,” states Nick Gill, MORPC Assistant Director of Transportation Systems and Funding.

The evaluation criteria can be viewed on our website: www.morpc.org/mtp2040.

Please submit any comments to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Attn: Thea Walsh, Director of Transportation Systems and Funding, by 5 p.m., on or before Friday, May 1, 2015 or by email at mtp@morpc.org.

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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.