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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC launches Park & Pedal Program on Bike to Work Day

(Columbus – May 14, 2015) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), in partnership with the City of Columbus, is launching a new pilot program to assist commuters. The Park & Pedal Program is specifically designed for commuters who drive 5 or more miles to work to enjoy the last few miles of their commute by bike. Park & Pedal is funded through RideSolutions, a MORPC program that promotes alternatives to driving alone such as carpooling, vanpooling, transit or bicycling in an effort to reduce congestion in the region, save commuters on their fuel costs, and improve the environment. The goals of the Park & Pedal Program are to reduce traffic congestion in Central Ohio and increase bicycle commuting in Central Ohio.

Parks adjacent to multi-use trails or on-road bike facilities that connect to employment centers will be targeted as Park & Pedal locations with signage letting people know that they are welcome to leave their cars and bike the rest of the way to work. These locations will be advertised by MORPC, as well as by partnering entities. MORPC will work with communities and businesses in Central Ohio to garner interest in installing signs at parks, municipal facilities, and other available parking lots to both serve their residents who commute to other areas and employees of their community who commute from other areas. Future additions to the program could include educational opportunities such as guided commuting rides and amenities such as bicycle "fix-it" stations at Park & Pedal locations.

“Riding a bike the entire way to work can sometimes be an obstacle,” said MORPC Executive Director, William Murdock. “Park & Pedal is an easy and fun solution making cycling more accessible to all while improving personal health and Central Ohio's air quality.”

On May 15, 2015, MORPC will launch the Park & Pedal Program pilot at Columbus’ Academy Park and Dodge Park in conjunction with Bike to Work Day. Guided Bike to Work Day riding routes will go through both parks picking up bike commuters on the journey to Columbus Commons where the festivities of the day will be held.

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 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.

Working to Build a Better Region

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