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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC State of the Region unveils anticipated Growth may reach 1 Million people by 2050

(Columbus-May 6, 2016) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is holding its 2016 State of the Region at the Hilton Columbus Downtown today. MORPC Executive Director William Murdock will share the latest insight2050 data to benchmark Central Ohio's growth and development from 2010 to 2015. The insight2050 effort launched two years ago by MORPC, Columbus 2020 and Urban Land Institute Columbus was created to examine the effects of population growth and changing development in the coming 35 years.

Murdock will announce that since 2010, the 7-county Central Ohio area added 115,000 people – more than what insight2050 originally projected. According to Murdock, if the region continues to grow that quickly it's possible for Central Ohio's population to add 500,000 by 2029 but at the pace we are growing, we could add upwards of a million people by 2050. Murdock will point out to attendees that it appears we're not keeping as many people between the ages of 30-39 as we expected. This is critical because these are valuable workers who seem to be leaving the region after they get some experience under their belts, but before they start families and buy homes.

With the region's land development, Murdock will reveal that in the last five years, the region developed about 25 square miles. At this pace, by 2050 Central Ohio is expected to develop about 112 square miles, well below the 270 square miles originally expected. This shows that development is happening in places already served by infrastructure, especially with infill and redevelopment.

Murdock will announce that the region is on target to build at least 300,000 new housing units by 2050. Between 2010 and 2015, Central Ohio saw significant growth in multi-family – nearly 2 out of 3 new housing units. Job growth also is exceeding expectations with 122,000 new jobs added since 2010.

The event's keynote speaker, Dr. James Johnson, Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship in the Business School at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, will validate many of the insight2050 growth indicators and trends when discussing Central Ohio demographics. Dr. Johnson will present implications from this type of growth that are far reaching and will dramatically impact our region's businesses and communities.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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The event's award ceremony will honor Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher, former Mayor and Dublin City Council Member, as the recipient of the Regional Leadership Award. Grove City Mayor Richard "Ike" Stage will be recognized with the William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award. The Sustaining Scioto Plan is receiving the William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement Award.

The event can be seen in its entirety on GTC TV Channel 3.

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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.