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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC State of the Region 2015 Award Nominees

(Columbus – January 13, 2015) Community leaders who have made extraordinary efforts in contributing to the welfare of Central Ohioans will be honored by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) at the State of the Region Luncheon on Thursday, April 2 in the George Bellows Ballroom at the Hilton downtown Columbus. An awards ceremony honoring the winners of these prestigious awards is scheduled to take place at the luncheon.

The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award was created in 2006 in honor of William C. Habig, who served MORPC for 39 years, 34 years as executive director. The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award is annually presented to an individual or individuals who have achieved an effective effort or innovative collaborative in Central Ohio. The honoree (s) will have demonstrated success in developing a specific initiative or entity that supports broad inclusion and encourages diverse perspectives. The initiative or entity delivers tangible results addressing key challenges facing the region. The 2015 Nominees include:

- **I270/US33 Interchange Project Partnership** - A broad-based, multi-year coalition of public and private central Ohio partners has propelled the I 270/US 33 Interchange's reconstruction start date to early 2015, at least 10 years ahead of schedule. The diverse collaboration of: business organizations including the Union County Economic Development, the Columbus Chamber, Columbus 2020 and the Columbus Partnership; over 400 firms and individuals; ODOT; MORPC and the City of Dublin committed to making this project the region's top priority.
- **Yaromir Steiner, Chair of insight2050 steering committee** - Yaromir Steiner, CEO of Steiner + Associates, and chair of the collaborative insight2050 initiative. Yaromir has been instrumental in bringing the private sector to the table and in successfully leading the diverse 30 member steering committee through the 9 month project time frame. insight2050 is a public-private partnership that provides objective data and analysis to local governments, developers, and business leaders about the impact of the region's population growth of the next 30+ years that is expected to be dramatically different from the past. The project results allow our communities to better understand the impact of future land use policies on key issues such as transportation, land consumption, government budgets, environmental or air quality.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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- **Jobs Expansion & Transportation (JET) Task Force** – The JET Task is providing an actionable plan for increasing direct flights, expanding economic development, and examining the feasibility of making Port Columbus a regional transportation center.
- **Senior Service Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County** - The Senior Services Roundtable celebrated its 7th anniversary in 2014. What began as a handful of concerned citizens and two government agencies has snowballed into a group of nearly 900 individuals, groups and organizations all committed to helping older adults. The mission of the Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County is to advocate for seniors and their families by identifying needs and services that provide improved and safe living conditions, and to promote collaboration among public and private agencies and groups to implement solutions to satisfy these needs and services. The Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County is a clearinghouse of information and ideas to assist seniors in central Ohio, particularly those striving to remain independent in their later years.

First introduced in 1997, the Regional Leadership Award recognizes individuals in a 15-county region (Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties) who make extraordinary efforts to ensure the future viability of the region's communities. The Regional Leadership Award is derived from the Commission's continuing dedication to addressing issues that transcend community boundaries and to stimulating visionary thinking. The 2015 Nominees include:

- **Jack Knapp – Accurate IT Recycling Services**
- **Mayor Michael B. Coleman – City of Columbus**
- **John O'Meara – Franklin County Metro Parks**

Online registration is available at www.morpc.org/sotrevent. Early bird tickets are available for \$85 each or \$850 for a table of ten. After March 6, tickets will be available for \$95 each. For more information, please contact Bernice Cage at 614-233-4157 or bcage@morpc.org.

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.