



Contact: **Bernice Cage**
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Approves SFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program and Amends 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(COLUMBUS, May 11, 2017) – The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) approved the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for State Fiscal Years 2018-2021. The TIP, submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), will not become effective until the U.S. Department of Transportation’s final approval, anticipated by July 1, 2017.

MORPC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus Urbanized Area with the responsibility to conduct the urban transportation planning process. The TIP is a schedule of projects within 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 proposed for construction from July 2017 through June 2021. The TIP documents how over \$2 billion in federal, state and/or local funds will be used for highway, COTA's and DATABus’s program of projects and bikeway/pedestrian projects over the next 4 years. The TIP also includes some planning and engineering studies that may lead to construction in later years. The TIP underwent a federally required air quality conformity analysis and considers effects upon low-income and minority residents.

“The TIP represents over \$2 billion in significant federal, state and local investments in our regional infrastructure, which will make our economy more efficient and provide a better quality of life for our residents. We appreciate all of the cooperation we received in putting the TIP together. We hope everyone in Central Ohio will see the benefits of that collaborative effort,” states William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director.

To view projects included in the TIP, please visit MORPC’s website at <http://www.morpc.org/tip>.

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Working to Build a Better Region

**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org**

In addition to approving the TIP, MORPC amended the 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to include one additional major widening project and adjusted the time frame of ten other projects. MORPC adopted the 2016-2040 MTP in May 2016.

The 2016-2040 MTP was reanalyzed and found to be in fiscal balance and in conformity for air quality with the Clean Air Act Amendments. MORPC affirms the consistency between the TIP for State Fiscal Years 2018-2021 and the 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and thus the determination of conformity between the TIP and the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

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.