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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to Review Candidate Projects for 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan on Interactive Map

(Columbus - June 18, 2015) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning (MORPC) has available for review and comment candidate projects being considered for inclusion in the 2016-2040 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 MTP will include highway, pedestrian, bikeway, and public transportation facilities including improvements identified by the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and Delaware Area Transit Agency (DATA Bus). Federal funding may be sought in the future for projects included in the MTP. The MTP will consider effects upon low-income and minority residents and will include an air quality conformity analysis. The plan is for horizon year 2040.

An interactive map has been developed to gather public input. It can be accessed at www.morpc.org/mtp2040. This tool provides ways for the public to submit or follow comments on projects already being considered. They can also suggest their own ideas and projects either by drawing on the map or sending an email. The types of projects include:

- New roadway or widening of a roadway
- Intersection improvement
- New or modified freeway interchange
- Other roadway projects such as roadway diet or access management
- Multi-use trail
- On-street bicycle facility
- New sidewalk
- New or improved transit service, such as bus or rail

A description and image of the types of projects can be found at www.morpc.org/mtp2040 or a copy of the map can be requested by calling 614-233-4157.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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“MORPC is very proud of the MTP interactive map. It allows the public to zoom in, review details of the transportation project, and leave a comment all on the same screen,” states Nancy Reger, MORPC Director of Data & Mapping. “The best part of this tool is that the public can suggest a project directly on the map. So far we believe we are the only metropolitan planning organization that has developed a tool like this. We are asking everyone to go to the map, take a look and play with it. Leave a comment or draw a project.”

Comments can be submitted on the interactive map, by email to mtp@morpc.org or in writing to MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Attn: Thea Walsh, by 5 p.m., Monday, August 31, 2015.

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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.