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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Participates in National Dump the Pump Day June 20 Public Encouraged to Try Transit this Thursday

(COLUMBUS, June 18, 2013) – Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will join Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and other public transportation systems nationwide to participate in the seventh annual National Dump the Pump Day on Thursday, June 20.

Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), National Dump the Pump Day encourages people to ride public transportation or incorporate public transit into their routine and save money, instead of exclusively driving a car.

Riding transit helps Central Ohioans breathe cleaner air by reducing the number of individual automobiles on the road. Fewer automobiles on the road decrease the emissions contributing to the formation of particle pollution or PM, and ground-level ozone pollution. Individuals suffering from heart and lung conditions are at greater risk when PM and ozone pollution reach levels that are unhealthy for sensitive groups. With fuel prices over \$4.00 per gallon, riders can not only breathe easier but save money by taking transit.

MORPC supports those who carpool or ride COTA to work with its Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program.

“RideSolutions’ Guaranteed Ride Home program takes the worry out of being stranded at work in the case of an emergency or unexpected overtime for commuters who rideshare. This MORPC program is free to anyone who carpools, vanpools, bikes or rides public transportation to work. Registration with the GRH Program is free, and entitles commuters to a 90-percent cab fare reimbursement, up to four times a year, in event of an emergency or unexpected overtime. Anyone ridesharing can call 1.888.742.RIDE (7433) to register or log on to <http://morpc.org/ridesolutions/grh.asp>,” said Lynn Robinson MORPC RideSolutions Program Manager.

MORPC will join COTA and other community organizations on Thursday at Battelle Plaza to celebrate dumping the pump this Thursday at Nationwide Boulevard and Front Street where there will be free ice cream from the CD102.5 ice cream truck, information about trying transit, as well as contests and prizes. The first 100 people to mention the promotion will win a pair of COTA passes for Red, White and Boom on July 3.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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Designated as central Ohio's metropolitan planning agency, MORPC is a voluntary association of 42 local governments. The Center for Energy & Environment at MORPC serves as a community resource in the region by offering a variety of services including: daily air quality forecasts, trail coordination, educational presentations, watershed planning, home weatherization, government carbon footprint analysis and more.