

**April 5, 2006  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: SARAH WOLLER  
(513) 621-6300 x141**

## **OKI Receives National Recognition April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Kicks-Off Case Study**

**Cincinnati, Ohio** – The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) has been recognized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the national leader in the utilization of sophisticated benefit-cost analysis. OKI's selection as a case study allows its work to serve as a model to similar agencies across the nation.

"OKI is proud that it alone has been selected by the FHWA to be the case study for this benefit-cost analytical tool," said Boone County Judge/Executive Gary Moore, President of OKI. "We are hopeful that OKI and similar agencies will truly be able to weigh the benefits and costs of undertaking transportation projects. This is crucial because of the ever-widening gap between identified needs and available funds."

Few, if any, metropolitan planning organizations incorporate complex benefit-cost analysis into their program evaluations. To address this, OKI has spent the past year-and-a-half investigating the use of a computer program known as STEAM (Surface Transportation Efficiency Analysis Model). STEAM estimates the time, cost, safety and emissions impacts of all modes of transportation for projects within the OKI region. It is most suited for evaluation of large scale projects and transportation programs. OKI intends to apply this program, originally developed by the FHWA, to projects such as corridor study recommendations, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan.

**- more -**

**OKI: Benefit-Cost Analysis**  
**Page 2**

Because of this intensive work with STEAM, FHWA has selected OKI as a case study in the application of benefit-cost analysis to transportation planning. Eric Gabler of FHWA and Don Vary of Cambridge Systematics will be at OKI on Thursday, April 13, 2006. They, along with Mary Luebbers and Larry Buckler of OKI, will present benefit-cost analysis in transportation planning featuring the STEAM program to regional leaders. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

OKI is a council of local governments, business organizations and community groups committed to developing collaborative strategies, plans and programs to improve the quality of life and the economic development potential of the Tri-State.

**- attachment -**