

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2008



Ohio · Kentucky · Indiana
Regional Council of Governments

OKI Helping Shape Ohio's 21st Century Transportation Strategies **Ohio Transportation Task Force Kicks Off Regional Meetings**

Cincinnati, OH – Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) Executive Director Mark Policinski highlighted important transportation challenges facing Ohio and the Tri-State region yesterday at the 21st Century Transportation Priorities Task Force meeting. The meeting, held at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, was the first in a series of regional conferences that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will hold in various locations throughout Ohio.

“We are at a critical juncture because our financial resources are declining and our infrastructure is aging, so we must compile creative solutions to combat these challenges,” said Policinski. “Our transportation network is critical in enabling us to continue to compete in the global marketplace.”

The task force will focus on identifying solutions to maximize multi-modal connectivity, new economic development opportunities and public investment. The members of the task force will conduct a comprehensive analysis of how the state balances the movement of people and freight, improves safety, reduces congestion, and creates new economic development opportunities.

“I commend Ohio Governor Strickland and Lieutenant Governor Fisher for using transportation as a lynchpin to improve the economic climate of this state,” said Policinski. “It is imperative that we all work collaboratively in developing these transportation related strategies to propel Ohio forward and improve the quality of life for residents throughout the state.”

ODOT officially launched the task force last month at a meeting in Columbus where a diverse mix of industry experts and state leaders began to identify and analyze strategies to improve Ohio's transportation network.

Additional information about ODOT's 21st Century Transportation Priorities Task Force can be found at www.dot.state.oh.us.

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 economic development potential of the Tri-State.

###

For more information contact: Brian Cunningham, (513) 619-7670

Christine L. Matacic
President

Mark R. Policinski
Executive Director