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Regional Council of Governments

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Bike and Walking Trails Provide Unique Experience *More Than 100 Miles of Trails Found in OKI Region*

Cincinnati, OH – Bicycle advocate Don Burrell, senior planner and bicycle/pedestrian coordinator at the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), clearly demonstrates the pleasure and commitment he has for his job through example. As Burrell snapped the chin strap on his bicycle helmet he pondered what adventures he would encounter on the eight-day bike tour on which he was about to embark.

Burrell's 300-mile trek followed the C&O Canal that runs along the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland and then to Pittsburgh along the Great Allegheny Passage rail-trail, a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

"Biking not only provides individuals the benefit of exercise it also offers bicyclists the opportunity to meet interesting people along the trail," said OKI Board President and Liberty Township Trustee Christine Matacic. "A nice bike ride might even help remove thoughts about the high price of gasoline – if even temporarily."

There are more than 100 miles of paved trails in the eight counties that make up the OKI region including Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren in Ohio; Boone, Campbell, and Kenton in Kentucky; and Dearborn in Indiana. These trails or "shared use paths" are used by bikers, hikers, skaters and people with disabilities. There are also miles of scenic roads through flat river valleys and rolling farm land that are routinely used for similar activities.

The trails provide riders a unique opportunity to view history or simply witness the natural beauty of the OKI region. The Little Miami Scenic Trail in Ohio is a perfect example of what the region has to offer. The trail runs 47 miles parallel to the Little Miami River from the Little Miami Golf Center in Hamilton County to the Warren-Greene county line. It continues another 26 miles through Xenia and Yellow Springs to Springfield. Another example is the five-mile Dearborn Trail in Indiana running along the Ohio River connecting Lawrenceburg and Aurora. Also, just north of Burlington on KY 338 in Boone County Kentucky, the England-Idlewild Park features 11-miles of single track mountain bike trails with signed loops for all levels of bikers.

"The scenic ride was enjoyable but there are similar potentials back home such as the Cincinnati Whitewater Canal between Cleves, Ohio and Metamora, Indiana," said Burrell.

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.

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