

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Projects Help Improve Air Quality in the Cincinnati Region

OKI efforts help improve communities' quality of life

Cincinnati, Ohio – Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) Board President Christine Matacic applauded the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for its recent funding announcement awarding more than \$3 million to the Indiana & Ohio Railway (I&O) for emission reduction projects in the OKI region.

The two projects include the replacement of two 1970 locomotives with new ultra-low emission locomotives and the installation of anti-idle equipment on 24 locomotives. These projects will help reduce particulate matter and nitrogen oxides pollutants prevalent in the region.

“The I&O rail projects will help further our work in improving air quality for residents of the OKI region,” said Matacic. “These efforts, in conjunction with OKI’s Regional Clean Air program, help us work toward the goal of cleaner air and a better quality of life.”

OKI’s Regional Clean Air program raises awareness regarding air quality issues through education and outreach. OKI’s “do your share for cleaner air” campaign is a mainstay in the region during the hot, summer months when air pollution tends to be at its highest.

In addition, OKI established a Regional Freight Working Group in 2007 to focus on improving freight movement, identifying efficient energy usage through emission reductions, and increasing cost savings from fuel conservation and improved technology.

“Individually these efforts help and collectively they contribute significantly to improving the air quality in the OKI region,” said OKI Executive Director Mark Policinski. “Air quality affects everyone and these emission reduction projects will help provide cleaner air for everyone to breathe.”

The ODOD grants were financed using federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds. In addition to ODOD, ODOT and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency evaluated the proposals submitted for this grant program.

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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