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OKI Aids Communities in Stretching Valuable Resources

Data from new tool can provide understanding of benefits and challenges with development

Cincinnati, Ohio – The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) has created an innovative tool to aid local governments measure benefits and fiscal consequences of changes within these communities. The OKI Fiscal Impact Analysis Model is the only such model ever developed by a regional entity in the United States.

“In short, this Fiscal Impact Model will allow government to use tax dollars more wisely,” said Campbell County Judge Executive and OKI board president Steve Pendery. “Every day local officials must balance the need for services against shrinking budgets. This Fiscal Impact Model will help find that delicate balance through a better understanding of positive outcomes and potential challenges related to development.”

OKI’s Fiscal Impact Analysis Model assesses the costs and revenues associated with land use decisions and their potential impacts on community budgets. The model is designed to produce information about anticipated consequences of a policy decision or development, given specific economic and demographic assumptions provided by the user. The land use scenarios typically involve commercial and residential development or redevelopment.

In addition, federal transportation investments can stimulate land use change and economic development. OKI’s model allows local governments to capitalize on potential land use changes related to transportation investments by analyzing the impact of alternative land use scenarios on each jurisdiction’s budget. The information generated from OKI’s model also provides the public with valuable data on the benefits of a proposed development in their community.

“We’re looking forward to providing this tool to our local governments,” said Dennis Gordon, Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission. “Good land use decisions are based on a variety of factors. OKI’s fiscal impact model makes it possible for officials to include an important element that’s been missing when these decisions were made in the past.”

As communities better understand associated costs and revenues of development through fiscal impact analyses, they will be better able to plan for transportation investments to serve new developments or fix existing deficiencies. OKI’s model was initially tested by 10 communities. OKI is working to expand this partnership with other communities.

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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Editor's Note: The 10 communities that partnered with OKI in the development of the Fiscal Impact Analysis Model are listed below – the individual contacts can be reached for comment at the listed numbers.

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