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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION PILOTS SCHOOL POOL PROGRAM IN REYNOLDSBURG

(Columbus – December 17, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) RideSolutions Program, Reynoldsburg Safe Routes to Schools and participating schools' Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are piloting a new School Pool program to Reynoldsburg schools in central Ohio. The goal of the School Pool program is to provide information to parents and guardians so they can form carpools and help students find a bike or walk companion for a safer trip to school. A confidential list of students that live in proximity to each other is shared with parents interested in participating in the program. While the School Pool pilot program is voluntary, families receiving the list are not obligated to participate in carpools, but may keep the list as a reference. Three schools in Reynoldsburg are currently participating in the program; Waggoner Road Middle School, Waggoner Road Middle Junior High and French Run Elementary School.

"Reynoldsburg families have had to make many adjustments this year due to economics. Our city and schools are trying to make the best of very tight budgets and still provide basic services. School transportation was reduced to state minimum standards this year which has left many families struggling to find safe travel options for their children. We are fortunate to partner with MORPC in providing School Pool to our community and to give parents one more option for school travel," stated Monica DeBrock, Reynoldsburg City Schools Safe Routes to School Coordinator.

"RideSolutions is excited to provide another way for students to commute to and from our participating schools. Walking and biking in pairs and groups is safe and fun, and more carpooling means less cars dropping off and picking up students. We hope that this service brings awareness to choosing to share the commute," said Janet Berardi, MORPC RideSolutions Outreach Coordinator.

MORPC's RideSolutions program provides free services to help parents and commuters form carpools, vanpool or ride transit. Ridesharing eases the burden of busing students, saves money in rising fuel costs and helps lessen air pollution. RideSolutions staff is also working with area employers in assisting their employees in finding alternative ways to work. Contact MORPC's RideSolutions at 1-888-742-RIDE (7433) or visit www.morpc.org.

MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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