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MORPC RELEASES REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE HIGH-CRASH LOCATION LIST

(Columbus-January 14, 2010) Using data from police crash reports, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has identified the top locations for vehicular crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists in the transportation planning area. The transportation planning area consists of Delaware and Franklin counties, Bloom and Violet townships in Fairfield County, and Pataskala in Licking County. The pedestrian and bicycle high crash location list is a new addition to MORPC's annual review of vehicle crashes.

Although the annual number of total crashes declined during the years examined (2003–2007), pedestrian and bicycle crashes did not show a clear downward trend. Instead, they remained relatively stable, in part because more people are walking and bicycling. This suggests that additional attention should be paid to these types of crashes, especially since pedestrians and cyclists are much more vulnerable to injury or death in crashes. The injury rate in pedestrian and bicycle crashes was 79 percent, compared to 26 percent in all crashes.

In addition to the top pedestrian and bicycle crash locations, MORPC has also identified the top pedestrian and bicycle crash corridors. Corridors were identified by connecting segments of roadway where large numbers of pedestrian and bicycle crashes occur.

The top 3 pedestrian and bicycle crash locations are:

- Lane Avenue at High Street and Tuller Street
- Hague Avenue at Sullivant Avenue
- Sullivant Avenue at Wayne Avenue

The top 3 crash corridors are:

- High Street from the Short North to Clintonville
- Lane Avenue in the OSU campus area
- Sullivant Avenue in the Hilltop

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High crash locations and corridors tend to correlate with areas where there is a large volume of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as areas that lack appropriate infrastructure for moderate volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

“There are many advantages to identifying the region’s top pedestrian and bicycle crash locations. Local governments can use the information to apply for safety funding. The information can be used to plan for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, which will make walking and biking safer in problem areas,” states Kerstin Carr, Manager, Active Transportation and Safety Programs.

Maps showing top crash locations and corridors will be made available for each city in MORPC’s transportation planning area. For a complete listing or for more information, 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.