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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### OMEGA Seeking Members for Citizen Advisory Board

OMEGA has been awarded grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to participate in a two-year Regional Transportation Planning pilot-program. The primary objectives of this program are: development of a transportation plan, interagency consultation, stakeholder outreach, and development of regional transportation planning expertise. In serving as a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), OMEGA is tasked with forming a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tuscarawas County Public Library located at 121 Fair Avenue NW in New Philadelphia.

OMEGA is seeking citizens interested in participating in the development of a regional transportation plan that will include the following counties: Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas. Advisory board members will assist in identifying the transportation needs for the region and prioritization of projects to meet those needs. All aspects of transportation, including road, rail, air, water, ports, bicycle, and pedestrian will be studied. It is anticipated that the CAB will be meeting quarterly throughout the duration of the two-year program. Included among the potential benefits of this program are: expanding regional transportation planning coverage area, strengthening existing partnerships, establishing framework for future data collection and project selection efforts, linking transportation planning with existing economic/community development programs, and robust statewide databases.

If you are interested in serving on the Citizens Advisory Board, please contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471, ext. 206 or by e-mail at [cindik@omegadistrict.org](mailto:cindik@omegadistrict.org).

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