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## Plan for Ohio's Transportation Future Unveiled

The OEC helps map out smarter way to move people & freight through Buckeye State

Columbus, OH – The stars may be aligning for a major shift in transportation policy in Ohio – a shift in favor of transportation modes that use energy more efficiently, shrink harmful emissions and greenhouse gases, and grow green jobs and more sustainable communities.

The Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 21st Century Transportation Priorities Task Force — of which the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is a member — is proposing sweeping changes to move people and freight in the Buckeye State, including:

- encourage the movement of freight by water and rail, which uses less energy
- step up the use of cleaner fuels and diesel clean-up technologies to reduce harmful air emissions
- give commuters and business and tourism travelers more transportation options by dedicating more funding for public transit and pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- re-establish passenger rail service on the “3-C corridor” (Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati) and fully develop the Ohio Hub Plan to integrated the region's air, highway and local transit networks

“As a member of ODOT's Task Force,” says Devan Willemsen, the OEC's Director of Air & Land Use Special Projects, “the OEC looks forward to working with the Strickland administration and other partners to make these proposed recommendations a reality for all Ohioans.”

According to the OEC, the benefits of implementing these recommendations are multi-fold:

- economic development through transit-oriented development, travel, and tourism
- easier attainment of air quality standards
- quality of life improved for residents and commuters
- less energy used
- reduced demand for foreign oil and reduced pollution

“Ohio needs a seamless transportation network,” continued Willemsen. “This report provides an inspired map for moving Ohio forward.”

To read the complete report, visit [www.dot.state.oh.us/groups/tft/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/groups/tft/Pages/default.aspx).

The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio's leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, we secure a healthier environment for Ohio's families and communities. For more information, visit [www.theOEC.org](http://www.theOEC.org).