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Public Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Oasis Rail Transit Project *Proposed rail line to provide commuter service between Downtown Cincinnati and western Clermont County*

CINCINNATI (November 22, 2013) – The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has scheduled three public involvement meetings in early December to share updates on the advancing development of Greater Cincinnati's first commuter rail line – Oasis Rail Transit – and gather input from the public on various components of the proposed project. A core element of the Eastern Corridor Program, Oasis Rail Transit introduces a new public transportation option to the region and would serve communities extending east from downtown Cincinnati, through Hamilton County, and into western Clermont County.

The public involvement meetings will be held at three different locations along the project corridor. The content of each meeting will be the same. Meeting dates and locations are:

TUESDAY, DEC. 10
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

R.G. Cribbett Center
5903 Hawthorne Avenue
Fairfax, OH 45227

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Taft Center at
Fountain Square
425 Walnut Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(US Bank Bldg, 2nd Floor)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Miami Township Civic Center
6007 Meijer Drive
Milford, OH 45150

Each meeting will be organized in an open house format. The public can arrive at any time during the meeting period to review and discuss information presented on a series of boards staffed by project team representatives. In addition, an open-forum Public Comment Session will be held at 12:30 p.m. during the daytime meeting and at 7:00 p.m. during the evening meetings. An interactive, internet-based tool will be available at the meetings through which the public can provide additional feedback and communicate to project planners their priorities for improving travel and accessibility in the Greater Cincinnati region. This tool will also be accessible online at www.EasternCorridor.org beginning Dec. 10 and will remain available until Jan. 3, 2014.

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Eastern Corridor Implementation Partners

Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District • Clermont County Transportation Improvement District • City of Cincinnati
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments • Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority • Ohio Department of Transportation

The Eastern Corridor Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation in cooperation with the

“Residents of Greater Cincinnati and the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana region will benefit substantially if we implement the proposed Oasis commuter rail,” said Steve Mary, Deputy Director of ODOT District 8. “Improving accessibility and offering additional transportation choices is essential for the sustainability and growth of our region. Introducing a commuter rail option is one way that ODOT can meet the demands for improved transit service in this corridor and the Oasis Rail Transit project could very possibly be the first step in establishing a regional commuter rail system.”

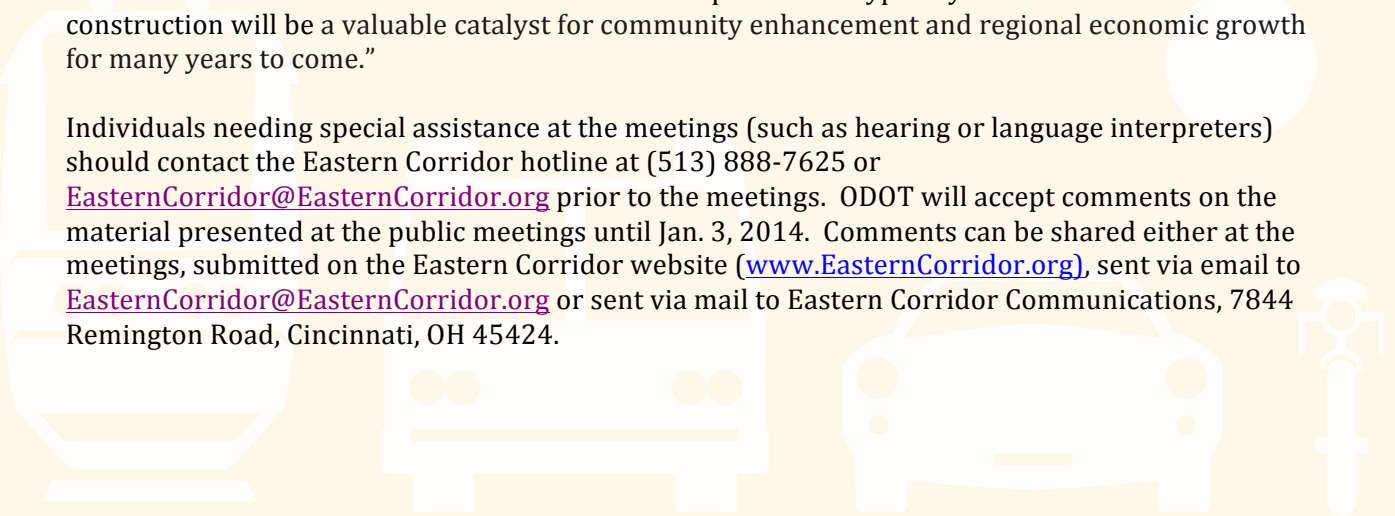
The upcoming meetings will focus primarily on the study results and recommendations summarized in the Oasis Rail Conceptual Alternative Solutions report (Nov. 2013), which is now available for public review. The report is posted on the Oasis Project Documents page of the Eastern Corridor website: <http://easterncorridor.org/projects/oasis-rail-transit/oasis-rail-transit-documents/>. Topics to be discussed at the meetings include proposed schedule options for rail service, recommended rail vehicle technology, updates on potential track alignment options and requirements, recommended station locations and upcoming planning needs, preliminary cost estimates, funding options to be considered, and next steps in the project development process.

“Public involvement provides the critical feedback needed for ODOT to complete our planning process,” stated Mary. “We cannot make good, well-informed decisions without meaningful discussion, suggestions, and recommendations from those affected by the proposed work as well as those who will benefit from it. We’ve been working with our Eastern Corridor Implementation Partners to gather additional data and evaluate public input, discuss options and refine our suggested improvements since our last series of formal Public Meetings in the summer of 2012. We have made good progress since then and look forward to sharing our latest information with the public and hearing what they have to say”

ODOT will integrate the feedback received at the public meetings into the next phase of their planning efforts.

“The Oasis rail line will provide significant, tangible benefits to our region,” said Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. Mr. Portune also serves as president of the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District and chairs the board of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI). “It will offer a reliable, predictable transportation alternative for those who cannot or chose not to drive. By helping get more cars off our roads, it will reduce congestion and the amount of polluting emissions that escape into our air from idling vehicles. And, new transit stations and the transit-oriented development that typically follows station construction will be a valuable catalyst for community enhancement and regional economic growth for many years to come.”

Individuals needing special assistance at the meetings (such as hearing or language interpreters) should contact the Eastern Corridor hotline at (513) 888-7625 or EasternCorridor@EasternCorridor.org prior to the meetings. ODOT will accept comments on the material presented at the public meetings until Jan. 3, 2014. Comments can be shared either at the meetings, submitted on the Eastern Corridor website (www.EasternCorridor.org), sent via email to EasternCorridor@EasternCorridor.org or sent via mail to Eastern Corridor Communications, 7844 Remington Road, Cincinnati, OH 45424.



About Oasis

A core element of the Eastern Corridor Program, the 17-mile Oasis Rail Transit line will introduce a new transportation choice to the Eastern Corridor region, moving residents, workers and visitors between downtown Cincinnati, the City of Milford and the communities in between. Much of its track alignment would use publicly-owned rail right-of-way and existing freight lines. In other places, new tracks would be built to complete necessary connections. For planning purposes, the Oasis corridor is divided into four segments which will be constructed in phases:

Segment 1: Riverfront Transit Center to the Boathouse (1 mile)

Segment 2: Boathouse to US 50 in Fairfax (7 miles)

Segment 3: US 50 in Fairfax to Ancor area, slightly northeast of Newtown (4 miles)*

Segment 4: Ancor area to Milford (5 miles)

More information about Oasis is available at <http://easterncorridor.org/projects/oasis-rail-transit/oasis-rail-transit-project-overview/>.

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The Eastern Corridor is a program of integrated, multi-modal transportation investments that, together, will provide essential east-west connectivity for the Greater Cincinnati region. Currently in its second phase of study which is fully funded, the Program will address critical congestion issues and mobility challenges expected to worsen by 2030. Planned enhancements will improve travel and connections between central Cincinnati and the communities extending east through Hamilton County into western Clermont County. Program elements include improvements to existing road networks, new and expanded roadways, rail transit, expanded bus routes and improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Eastern Corridor Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Eastern Corridor Implementation Partners: Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (HCTID), Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID), City of Cincinnati, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) and the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA). More information about Eastern Corridor is available at www.EasternCorridor.org.

