

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Cleveland Innerbelt Plan to Introduce New Advisors, Hold Public Meeting**

**January 13, 2005, CLEVELAND, OHIO...**The Ohio Department of Transportation District 12 will convene a new board of advisors to counsel the Department and its partner, the City of Cleveland, as the Cleveland Innerbelt Plan moves forward.

- A new 70-person advisory committee will be officially convened at their first meeting on February 24, 2005 at 9 a.m. at the offices of the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA).
- An Open House will be held that same evening from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association and is open to the general public.

The Cleveland Urban Core Projects Advisory Committee will guide ODOT and the City through the next four steps of the ODOT Project Development Process (PDP), just as the Scoping Committee served as the guiding authority during the first four steps. The PDP is a 14-step process which will culminate with construction.

The committee will serve as a forum for the projects resulting from the Cleveland Innerbelt Plan, the Cuyahoga River Valley Intermodal Connector Study, the Lakefront Plan and the Opportunity Corridor Study. The committee, to be convened by ODOT, will provide recommendations to the transportation decision makers including ODOT, the City of Cleveland, NOACA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The new committee will offer guidance throughout the next four steps of the Cleveland Innerbelt Plan which will result in a preferred design alternative, the environmental document and Stage One design plans. It is estimated that this new phase will take about 15 months.

Funding is committed for the reconstruction of the Innerbelt and related projects starting in state fiscal year 2007.

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