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NEWS RELEASE

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Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium Growing & Launching Engagement Activities

The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium is pleased to announce the additions of the Akron Urban League, Policy Bridge, Catholic Charities – Diocese of Youngstown, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and the Northeast Ohio Community Development Alliance to its membership. The consortium board has been expanded over the past year to now include 28 organizations throughout Northeast Ohio. The current list of members includes:

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Akron Urban League
Ashtabula County
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Youngstown
City of Akron
City of Cleveland
City of Youngstown
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland State University
Cuyahoga County
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Fund for Our Economic Future
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
Lorain County Growth Partnership

Mahoning County
Northeastern Ohio Community Development Alliance
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning & Development Organization
Policy Bridge
Regional Prosperity Initiative
Stark County
Stark County Regional Planning Commission/
Stark County Area Transportation Study
Summit County
Summit County Health District
Trumbull County

Coming together to create a vibrant Northeast Ohio: The **Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium** (NEOSCC) is focused on advancing a quality, connected 12-county region amidst the today's economic climate and stretched resources. Through a diverse group of member organizations and region-wide engagement, the NEOSCC will develop concrete plans while producing collaborative capacity for action. The aim of all of these efforts is to create a vibrant and resilient Northeast Ohio that increases our quality of life, connects our communities; welcomes diversity, restores and protects our natural resources and creates a competitive economic framework for the vitality of our region. The 12 counties included in the plan are: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit, Stark, Trumbull and Wayne.

Over the last few months, the NEOSCC has launched four of its Work Streams: Economic Development, Environments, Communities and Connections. These work stream groups along with a fifth, Quality Connected Places are the framework for the Initiative. The organization opened its office in Akron in September and has regional offices in Cleveland and Youngstown.

In January 2012, the NEOSCC will launch a dialogue with the community focused on the first phase of the project, identifying existing conditions and best practices in the region. This dialogue throughout the 12 counties which will be formally announced next month will include both in-person and on-line participatory opportunities. One of the programs will be the 12 Counties in 12 Months program.

Beginning in April 2012, the NEOSCC will be taking its board meetings on the road to each of the Consortium's 12 Counties. 12 Counties in 12 Months will include both the board meeting locations as well as other engagement activities within each county to broaden the Consortium's regional perspective and engage the public throughout Northeast Ohio.

To review the engagement framework for this dialogue or to find out about upcoming meetings, please visit NEOSCC.org.

The Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Process is a three-year planning program funded largely by a highly competitive, first of its kind, \$4.25M federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the new federal Sustainable Communities Initiative. The Sustainable Communities Initiative is an interagency collaboration among HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection.

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