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TID BRINGING CONTRACTORS, LABOR AND AGENCIES TOGETHER TO PLAN FOR THE BUTLER REGIONAL HIGHWAY

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Unique Meeting Demonstrates TID Commitment to Build Highway

On Thursday, September 18, 1997, the Butler County Transportation Improvement District is bringing together contractors, sub-contractors, minority contractors, labor unions, and interested agencies to discuss plans to build the Butler Regional Highway. This day-long conference begins at 8 a.m. at the Wilks Conference Center on the Miami University Hamilton Campus. Over 100 people are expected to attend including national, state, regional and local contractors, labor union representatives, and representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

"Representative of the TID's commitment to innovation, we believe this conference is the first--in the state and possibly in the nation--to bring together all parties who are involved in transportation projects. All levels will be present at this meeting--from local sub-contractors and suppliers, to labor unions, to the largest construction firms in the United States," said Darrell Barger, TID Executive Director.

The national firms represented will include:

Kiewit Construction: Kiewit is ranked the number one federal highway program contractor in the United States with over \$328 million in national highway contracts in 1995.

Granite Construction Company: With a joint venture partner, Granite recently completed the largest public transportation project in the United States, the \$800 million San Joaquin Hills Corridor.

The meeting also will be attended by representatives from Ohio's largest construction companies including: Complete General Construction Company from Columbus, Kokosing Construction Company, from Fredericktown, Ohio, and J. R. Jurgensen Construction. Jurgensen, a Cincinnati-based contractor, is the general contractor on the Union Centre Interchange Project.

Conference participants will discuss a number of construction and contract issues related to the project. This conference is extremely unique because it will bring a wide range of interests together to provide their input in developing innovation for the construction of the Highway.

The Butler Regional Highway will be a four-lane, divided highway connecting Hamilton to I-75. This 10.7 mile project begins at the intersection of the current State Route 129 and State Route 4 in Hamilton, and runs east between Princeton and Hamilton-Mason Roads. Interchanges will be constructed at I-75, Bypass 4, State Route 747, and Cincinnati-Dayton Road. Over 95% of the Right-of-Way has been acquired. The TID plans to begin construction later this year, with a goal for completion in 1999. The cost of this project will exceed \$100 million.

The TID is a local agency established to plan, finance, construct and maintain road improvement projects. Since its inception in 1994, the TID has undertaken planning and facilitation of other projects including the Union Centre Interchange; widening and extension of Muhlhauser Road; the Symmes Road Extension; improvements to State Route 747, I-75, ByPass 4, and Princeton Road in Hamilton.

This conference will be the first event held in the new Wilks Conference Center at Miami University Hamilton.