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## Commissioner Davis Receives 2025 Leadership in Mobility Award from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)

**LANCASTER, OH** — Fairfield County Commissioner Steve Davis was honored during the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Annual Summit on Sustainability held on September 30 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Each year, MORPC recognizes individuals and organizations demonstrating leadership and a commitment to sustainability, planning, and practices across the region.

Davis was recognized with the <u>Leadership in Mobility Award</u> for his work in advancing transportation solutions for Fairfield County.

Davis was curious about the economics of driving for a ride share company, so using his electric vehicle, he became a driver to learn and connect with the community. He heard stories and witnessed residents in the community who had few or no transportation options. What started as an experiment opened his eyes to a deeper issue in Fairfield County. He witnessed the barriers residents face and worked to transition the local transit service to The LINK, Fairfield County Transit.

"I'm honored and humbled to receive this recognition," said Davis. "I found more than I was looking for when I started driving for a ride-share app. I'm grateful for the moments I had talking to real residents, hearing their stories, and finding solutions that make Fairfield County a place to work, live and succeed."

"This year's honorees exemplify the power of local initiatives in driving sustainability across Central Ohio," said Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC's Chief Regional Planning Officer. "Their leadership and innovative spirit remind us that lasting change happens when communities come together with shared purpose. Each honoree's efforts inspire us all to build a healthier, more connected, and resilient region."

The annual Summit was created to advance sustainable initiatives in central Ohio. The event welcomed nearly 600 attendees to the Hilton Columbus Downtown. This year's Summit explored sustainable growth strategies, honored local innovators with award presentations, and emphasized regional collaboration to strengthen resilient communities. The theme, *Local Roots. Lasting Impacts*, explored vital connections between our communities and the environment.

"As central Ohio grows, we must work together to make it an even better place to call home. Sustainability is a key strategy for our region's future," said William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director. "It's about conserving our natural resources and ensuring every community access to tools to improve the environment. This event also convenes community leaders and experts around both practical solutions and innovative ideas in water, energy, and building stronger neighborhoods."

Founded in 1800 (three years before Ohio became a State), Fairfield County was the 8th county formed in the Northwest Territory. Today, more than 900 employees serve, connect, and protect the more than 158,000 citizens of Fairfield County, providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service at exceptional value to taxpayers. Fairfield County fosters economic and fiscal sustainability and works to enhance the County's reputation as a high performing, learning, and caring organization. For more information about the county, its services and employment opportunities, please visit <a href="https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/">https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/</a>

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