



# Licking County Economic Stimulus Task Force

A public-private partnership advocating to maximize the impact of the federal stimulus package on the economy of Licking County and our region. See [stimulustaskforce.com](http://stimulustaskforce.com).

## STIMULUS PRIORITIES

The 21-member public-private Licking County Economic Stimulus Task Force, through an objective rating process, reviewed over 250 Licking County–submitted stimulus projects. These are projects submitted to [Recovery.Ohio.Gov](http://Recovery.Ohio.Gov) and considered eligible for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Task Force found a wide range of worthy projects for consideration. This priority list reflects projects with the greatest chance to grow the Licking County economy and job base for future generations. Transportation Priorities were published March 12.

### *Top Priority*

**Support to Existing Manufacturers:** Three projects designed to improve the efficiency and sustainability of existing facilities which are home to our local manufacturers are the priority for Licking County. The Task Force encourages the use of Energy & Environment stimulus program funds to improve, long-term, the viability of our manufacturing employers. **We encourage adequate funding to accomplish these important projects** which, we believe, will secure a better future for the employees and their families while bettering the global competitiveness of these Licking County industrial plants. The projects include:

- **Owens Corning:** The Owens Pipe Factory project includes improvement to the melting and pipe manufacturing process that will improve energy efficiency and product quality. These changes will ensure that this operation remains competitive so that products are not imported to the United States.
- **Kaiser Aluminum:** Installation of a new melter with two sets of regenerative burners will reduce the melt time in the aluminum manufacturing process. Installation of the \$3.2 million equipment can begin within six months. It would lower thermal pollution with lower exhaust temperatures and reduce energy consumption.
- **Holophane:** A \$750,000 project to retrofit its glass furnace with a “slow gob feeder” is a critical change that will significantly reduce the Newark plant’s energy consumption and costs of upkeep. This is not a wish list or nice-to-have, its felt that this “critical need” project will anchor and maintain Holophane’s future in Newark.

### *Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects*

**Seminary Road Water Tower, Heath:** This \$1.4 million shovel-ready project would improve city water service to Heath’s industrial corridor which is among the top 10 largest in Central Ohio and home to rail-served industrial capacity. Low pressures and volumes have been a deterrent to future development. We encourage Ohio EPA to fulfill Heath’s request for funding for this obviously-impactful economic development project.

**Gateway to Licking County, SR161/SR310:** This project would bring public water and sewer to the new SR310/161 interchange. A certainty of professionally-developed commercial, office and residential building opportunities will be sparked. This project would be ready to proceed for construction in 6 months or less.

**Jacksontown Sewer Project, Jacksontown:** An unincorporated area in Licking Township, Ohio is under EPA orders to connect homes to a sanitary sewer system to mitigate unsanitary stream conditions. Its felt that the proposed project will not only solve the public health nuisance but also improve future economic development opportunities in this area near Interstate 70. We encourage funding for this ready-to-go project.

### *Other Infrastructure*

**New Law Enforcement Building, Pataskala:** Pataskala’s city police department provides 24/7 coverage over a 30 square mile area out of a 92-year-old building that has outlived its useful life. A new 9,000 s.f. building is proposed to house the City’s law enforcement division to be constructed on land the city already owns.

**Newark-Heath Airport Runway Extension:** The Licking County Regional Airport Authority, through land acquisitions made in 2007, has already begun to take steps toward runway extension. The proposed stimulus project would allow Newark-Heath to take the next steps in its airport long-range plans toward a more viable general aviation alternative for business and recreational purposes, both of which spark economic activity.

**U.S. 62/S.R. 13 Intersection Safety Upgrade, Utica:** The Village of Utica has proposed upgrades at its most heavily-used intersection as a public safety improvement that benefits its 2,400 residents and travelers alike. The project potentially also qualifies as a transportation project for a community under 5,000 population.



# Licking County Economic Stimulus Task Force

A public-private partnership advocating to maximize the impact of the federal stimulus package on the economy of Licking County and our region. See [stimulustaskforce.com](http://stimulustaskforce.com).

## TASK FORCE SUMMARY

### Licking County

Licking County has been an economic development leader because of a history of business and government working together for progress.

The County has grown in population more than 40% in the last thirty five years and is the second-most populated county in the Columbus metro area. Recent Census estimates put the population at 157,000, growing at a pace in the top 10 in the state, and **Ohio's 18th largest county in population.**

Licking County has been able to compete for diverse, manufacturing and business capital investment because of a strong workforce, modern infrastructure, multi-modal transportation network, and access to markets and natural resources.

Leaders in Licking County recognize, though, that the global economy requires constant change and adaptation in order to remain competitive. Continued investment in transportation and infrastructure are critical to sustaining economic growth.

### Task Force

The Licking County Economic Stimulus Task Force is an advocacy effort of the Licking County Commissioners, Licking County Chamber of Commerce, and the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority.

The priorities represent the work product of a public-private partnership representative of the economic centers and largest employers in Licking County coming together to advocate for the projects that will have the greatest economic impact on Licking County's economy. The Task Force's work has been done in an open, transparent process.

Members of the Task Force include representatives from among the leadership of local government and area employers in Licking County. The members include:

#### Public Sector Representatives

Hon. Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioners  
Hon. Bob Diebold, Mayor, City of Newark  
Hon. Richard Waugh, Mayor, City of Heath  
Hon. Steve Butcher, Mayor, City of Pataskala  
Hon. Marcia Phelps, Representative of Countywide Entity  
Hon. Dave Miller, Representative of Licking County Townships  
Mike McFarland, Representative of Licking County Villages

#### Private Sector Representatives

Donna Alvarado, Aguila International  
Mike Bennett, The Longaberger Company  
Gene Branstool  
Dr. Bonnie Coe, Central Ohio Technical College  
Steve Cohen, Screen Machine Industries  
Dan DeLawder, Park National Bank  
Mike Emmelhainz, The Boeing Company  
Cheri Hottinger, Licking County Chamber of Commerce  
Jim Matesich, Matesich Distributing Co.  
Rob Montagnese, Licking Memorial Health Systems  
Robert O'Neill, Southgate Corporation  
Sarah Wallace, First Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Bart Weiler, Weiler Financial

The task force ranked and prioritized projects based on these criteria:

**Jobs Impact**  
**Economic Impact**  
**Long-Term Value**  
**Likelihood of Funding**  
**Local Context**



# Licking County Economic Stimulus Task Force

A public-private partnership advocating to maximize the impact of the federal stimulus package on the economy of Licking County and our region.

## TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

The 21-member public-private Licking County Economic Stimulus Task Force, through an objective scale rating process, ranked 50 Licking County transportation projects considered eligible for infrastructure funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Below is the project prioritization for various transportation sources.

### ***Top Priority***

**State Route 16 Cherry Valley Road Interchange:** Removal of the ever-increasing bottleneck at Cherry Valley Road in Granville and Newark's borders is critical to the future development of Licking County and public safety as well. This is a project considered a top project in Licking County for its long-term value and impact on the economy and jobs, both short- and long-term, in the regional economy. It is at the northern terminus of Central Ohio's largest manufacturing corridor. This is one of three priority projects of the seven-county Columbus-Pittsburgh Corridor Committee. This project is located in the Village of Granville.

The initial engineering for this interchange project was aided by a \$2 million federal earmark secured by Congressman Tiberi in FY06. If the earmark and additional funding source is used to complete the already 1/3 complete environmental work and preliminary engineering, we believe this project can be advanced to a design-build project in the second stage of stimulus funding or a future likely stimulus funding stage. **We encourage ODOT to release the federal earmark and prepare this project for future funding in the second stage of federal stimulus infrastructure funding.**

### ***Projects in Metropolitan Planning Organization Allocation***

**Pataskala Job Ready Site Etna Parkway Extension:** The lack of an industrial-quality roadway access to a 1,200-acre area of Pataskala and Etna Township zoned for manufacturing has been a barrier to its development for decades. This area, which includes a 300-acre Job Ready Site funded in 2006, has been approved for roadway improvements and is poised to begin construction on Phase I. Phase II will be ready to bid in November 2009. Etna Parkway is listed as a federal-aid highway. **We encourage MORPC, which has received a direct allocation of stimulus infrastructure funds, to fully fund this project.**

**Etna State Route 310 Widening.** MORPC is asked to consider funds for this project already identified as a priority in its long range plans.

### ***Projects in Cities Under 200,000***

**Waterworks Road Deo Drive Realignment:** A project expected to be ready to start in 180 days or less but lacking a committed funding pool, this overall \$3 million project would realign and reconstruct roadways off of State Route 13 and improve access to development on the North Side of Newark. We encouraged \$1.8 million in stimulus funding, as has been requested, to fund this project.

**Thornwood Drive:** Funds are needed to complete engineering for this project which links the four industrial parks and industrial sites that together form the largest manufacturing corridor in Central Ohio.

### ***Projects in Villages Under 5,000***

**Hebron High Street Resurfacing:** A likely detour for St. Rt. 79-diverted traffic, federal stimulus funds for *communities under 5,000 in population* would help to preserve this federal-aid highway from deterioration.

### ***Transportation Enhancement Projects***

**Bike Path Resurfacing:** No dedicated funding source exists for trail resurfacing so stimulus funding fills an unfulfilled need. The 44-mile trail system, in addition to being a recreational and fitness benefit, is also a proven development and transportation benefit linking our businesses, colleges, and retail to each other.

**Heath Trail Extension:** Heath is underway with engineering for a bike trail connection between the Water Park and the Heath Rec Center. This FY11 project is possible for acceleration.