



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.



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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.

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