

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Summit County Transportation Improvement District Awarded \$400,000 in Grant Funding for Economic Development and Roadway Improvements**

The Summit County Transportation Improvement District, chaired by County Executive Ilene Shapiro, was awarded \$400,000 for two projects in the SFY '18 Transportation Improvement District round of funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Office of Jobs and Commerce. The funds will be spent in the downtown cores of Akron and Barberton to continue important revitalization and job creation efforts in those cities.

The City of Akron will receive \$250,000 to support the Main Street Promenade project, which will focus on improving Akron's downtown Innovation District that includes the FirstEnergy campus, parts of the University of Akron and the Huntington Bank campus. The City was previously awarded a federal TIGER grant of \$5 million to jumpstart that project, which is focused on creating a more vibrant urban center. The City of Barberton will receive \$150,000 in Transportation Improvement District funds to improve the Wooster Road & Robinson Avenue intersection to bolster development for existing businesses, and the addition of a new company bringing 100 jobs to the city.

“One of our primary areas of focus in Summit County is economic development and job growth” said County Executive Shapiro. “Transportation Improvement District grants are vital to our continuing, proactive effort to expand opportunities to create and retain jobs in Summit County,

and to improve infrastructure. We are very pleased to receive this funding and to invest more toward job creation in our community.”

The Summit County Transportation Improvement District was formed in 2014 to allow Summit County to take advantage of funding opportunities offered by the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Office of Jobs and Commerce. Each year the state solicits projects for funding that are designed to strengthen infrastructure and bolster economic development by creating and/or retaining jobs and road construction. The Transportation Improvement District grants are competitive and support innovative infrastructure projects that create and retain jobs. With these two awards, the Transportation Improvement District has now received \$900,000 for local development projects in the three years of its existence.

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