

News Release

Russ Pry – Summit County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMMIT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT RECEIVES \$250,000 FROM ODOT FOR MANCHESTER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Summit County Transportation Improvement District (SCTID) is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of \$250,000 from the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Office of Jobs and Commerce to assist the City of New Franklin's efforts to widen Manchester Road. New Franklin has proposed widening Manchester Road as part of the expansion of Hi-Way Distributing Corp. of America, which is expected to create an additional 50 full-time jobs with a total payroll of \$1,300,000. The money received by the SCTID will cover \$250,000.00 of the estimated \$1,600,000 cost to widen Manchester Road.

The SCTID was created in January 2014 to assist infrastructure projects that both create and retain jobs in the area. Its members use intergovernmental and private-public cooperation to plan, construct and improve highways, roads, bridges, interchanges, and other capital projects. As a Transportation Improvement District recognized by ODOT's Office of Jobs and Commerce, SCTID can issue bonds for projects, receive funds, acquire and sell property and create special assessments. It also can annually apply and receive up to \$250,000 from ODOT's Office of Jobs and Commerce for job-creating infrastructure projects.

The widening of Manchester Road is expected by the SCTID and the City of New Franklin to not only assist Hi-Way Distribution with their expansion, but to also relieve traffic and congestion of a section of Manchester Road that is lined with businesses and restaurants, and has several unsignaled intersections and no turn lanes. The road widening will include a two-way left turn lane and dedicated left-turn lanes at some intersections. A 6' sidewalk along the east side of Manchester Road will also be added, as well as the first leg of the Portage Lakes State Park Connector Trail.

"With job creation and transportation so indispensable to every community, I am more than pleased with the Summit County Transportation Improvement District's work with this project," said Summit County Council President and Board Chairperson Ilene Shapiro. "Not only will the County gain and retain more jobs, but in the process, all residents will get the lasting benefit of a more efficient, safer, and better road."

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This is the second \$250,000 grant from ODOT that SCTID has been awarded since its inception. The first grant award, in 2015, funded a portion of the infrastructure in the Village of Boston Heights that supports the new Arhaus Furniture World Headquarters, new Costco Wholesale and future Bass Pro Outdoor World. That development has retained 274 jobs and will create more than 500 new jobs.

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