

# NEWS RELEASE

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



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**Contact:** David Lukas  
Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development  
Office of Executive Shapiro  
[ExecutivePress@summitoh.net](mailto:ExecutivePress@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2533

## **County secures \$350,000 grant for Barberton industrial park**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro is pleased to announce the County was recently awarded \$350,000 from the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Newell Street Industrial Park project in the City of Barberton. The project is one of ten selected from Transportation Improvement Districts (TID) across the state.

Summit County's application for the Newell Street project was among 28 projects submitted through the highly competitive TID program. Executive Shapiro's Department of Economic Development, as administrator of the Summit County (TID), worked closely with the City and the Barberton Community Foundation to prepare the application.

"We are very proud of the strong collaboration that resulted in our successful TID application and are confident it will lead to exciting growth in Barberton. These critical investments in infrastructure are the foundation for job creation and retention," said County Executive Shapiro. "We will continue to leverage resources like TID funding to support our local communities' economic development priorities."

The \$350,000 grant award will assist the City in making infrastructure improvements to provide access to the site and begin the transformation of the former brownfield into a multi-user industrial park. The grant funds will improve signalization on Newell Street and Norton Avenue, improve Newell Street capacities, and create left turn lanes on Norton Avenue.

"The City of Barberton is pleased to accept \$350,000 in grant funding for a transportation improvement district project on Newell Street," stated Mayor Judge. "Being one of only ten grants awarded throughout the state and the only grant in Summit County shows how competitive and special this TID grant is. We've collaborated with the Barberton Community Foundation on this project and this award is critical to our redevelopment efforts. This project will support both economic development and job creation and retention. The goal of the project is to attract new companies to the area and provide them with what they need to thrive and invest in our community."

In 2022, the Barberton Community Foundation acquired the approximately 36-acre industrial site as part of a public-private partnership with the City to develop the site into the Newell Street Industrial Park. In addition to purchasing the Newell Street property, the Foundation's involvement in economic development includes providing grant funds to the Barberton Community Development Corporation

(BCDC) for economic development-related job creation projects and downtown rehabilitation projects, and scholarships to Barberton residents and business owners to participate in entrepreneurial programs at Bounce Innovation Hub in Akron.

“Our partnership with the City of Barberton on this project allows for much needed industrial property which benefits not only Barberton, but Summit County and our entire region,” stated Director of Economic Development Ted Herncane, Barberton Community Foundation. “Receiving this award is integral to the site’s development and we could not have done it without the assistance of Executive Shapiro’s team.”

The Summit County TID was created in 2014 to foster intergovernmental and public-private cooperation to facilitate infrastructure improvements which result in job creation or job retention. The board is made up of five members appointed by the Summit County Executive. The TID can issue bonds for projects, receive funds, acquire and sell property and create special assessments for the improvements. Its mission is to assist in planning, constructing and improving highways, roads, bridges, interchanges and accompanying capital improvements and developments throughout the County and across political subdivisions within the TID area.

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