

The newsletter of the I-70/75 Development Association April 2002

The Interchange

Lead story: Governor, I-70/75 president participate in groundbreaking ... Gov. Bob Taft joined Dayton regional officials - including Beth Newton, president of the I-70/75 Development Association - to celebrate the beginning of a **\$145 million project** to reconstruct the Interstate 70 and Interstate 75 interchange. "We are making a long-term investment in the I-70 and I-75 corridor," Taft said. "It is no mistake that we borrow our name from the interchange, as we do consider these crossroads of America vital to the region's growth," Newton added. When the interchange opened nearly four decades ago, about 26,000 vehicles used it daily, Taft said. Now, more than 153,000 vehicles use it each day. That number is projected to increase **65 percent by the year 2020**. The first phase of the project includes construction of a new interchange, just south of the Little York Road, that will connect Benchwood Road on the west side and Wyse Road on the east side of I-75. Construction on the first phase will be completed by fall 2003 at an estimated cost of \$22 million. Reconstruction of the I-70/75 interchange proper begins the second and third phases with completion anticipated in 2007. Montgomery County Commissioner **Charles Curran** and **William Harrison**, deputy director of ODOT's District 7, also spoke prior to a groundbreaking ceremony held at the former Roberds store along Poe Avenue.

Other news: "We're going to be a lean, mean fighting machine," said **Steve Lake, president of the Dayton Regional Development Alliance**, at I-70/75's monthly membership meeting on March 15. He said the four-county region is well positioned to create new high-income jobs in the future in his "state of the region" report. Among the highlights: Six hundred more jobs were created in the four-county Dayton region in 2001, compared to 2000. New initiatives that will create new jobs in the future are Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory Council, Automotive Resource Network, I-Zone and Tool Valley. The Alliance's News Bureau placed news stories last year, conservatively **valued at \$3.4 million**, that reached 24 million people. In attracting potential business relocations, up-to-date Web page information is critical, "without the fluff," for site selection decision makers, he said. He said the Ohio Department of Development is prepared to launch the **new Web-based ProCure database information by June**. Keys for site selection, include: full-service sites with infrastructure in place, prepared incentives and updated workforce labor costs. For more information, check www.daytonregiontakesoff.com.

Member survey results: 90% of I-70/75 members cited networking opportunities as the top reason they are members, according to a survey circulated at March's meeting. That question garnered 97 responses from a potential of 120. **Other top reasons** are information (40%), plus awareness and involvement (28% each). The top three reasons members attend meeting were: **networking, information and programs**. The three top responses members would like to change about I-70/75 are: **meeting topics, rotating locations and addition of lunch meetings**.

What's Happening: News & updates involving members and associates of the I-70/75 Development Assn.

The city of Greenville has been rated among **America's Top 100 Small Towns for Corporate Facilities** by *Site Selection* magazine, the publication of the International Development Research Council. Greenville has garnered this honor for three consecutive years. The magazine ranks small towns on the basis of new plant and expansion announcements. "Greenville has benefitted from new company investment and continued expansion of our existing industrial base," said **Jim Hill**, Darke County development director.

The I-75 North South Transportation Initiative project team hosted an open house in West Carrollton on March 13 to learn more about possible alternatives proposed for the I-75 corridor, to deal with traffic issues. About 35 visitors attended. Similar open houses, were held earlier in Troy and Dayton. The project extends from Piqua south to northern Kentucky. Sponsors include the **Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission** and the Ohio Department of Transportation. For information, see these Web sites: www.nsinitiative.com, or www.mvrpc.org.

Ohio is ranked 10th in the nation in *Site Selection Magazine's* annual state rankings of private investment. Historically, Ohio has finished in the top five in this annual survey; however, the magazine changed the criteria to reflect state population. In terms of the total number of expansions/relocations, Ohio finished fifth with 840 projects. **Ohio also ranked first for the number of metro areas** and second in the number of small towns that made the list.

In another survey, **Ohio ranked among the top 10th** in *Plant, Sites and Parks* magazine's annual Hot Spots ranking for readers' choices and corporate decisions. In the two listings, Ohio ranked fourth in the Bizsites Top Sites and eighth in the Readers Choice Top Ten.

Bulgarian connection: Officials from the city of West Carrollton expressed appreciation for the efforts of many I-70/75 members in assisting with technical assistance program with the city of Vidin, Bulgaria. A group of West Carrollton officials will be departing for a reciprocal visit on **May 2**. Meanwhile, a contingent of Bulgarians, including Vidin's mayor, will be arriving **May 27**. Several business representatives will also be coming.

New members/orgs: Wright-Dunbar Village Main Street Program, **John E. Moore**, executive director; Middletown Economic Development Corporation, **Tom Blake**, President; **David Daugherty**, secretary-treasurer; **Ron Olson**, vice president; and **Larry Wood**, director.

People: **David Andersen**, Miami Township administrator and secretary of the I-70/75 Board, has accepted a new position with the city of Troy, as director of public service and safety, effective May 6. The Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition has announced two new executives: **Dwight Johnson** was named vice president and director of the Regional Technology Council. **J.P. Nauseef** was named vice president for Aerospace, Defense and Technology. I-70/75's former social committee chair, **Vanessa White**, has accepted a position with National City Bank in Cleveland. **Ken Ross** from Architects Associated, a longtime organization member of I-70/75, has assumed her duties. National City Bank has named **Tom M. Studevart** vice president of community development effective March 31, succeeding **Mary Sue Kessler** who retires March 29 after 14 years with the bank, and 33 years of commitment to the community.

Position available: The City of Riverside is accepting resumes for the position of **Director of Planning and Economic Development**. The city will accept resumes until the position is filled. For information, visit: www.riverside.oh.us/employment.htm

Upcoming I-70/75 events: Sign up now for these informational programs ...

Professional Development Program: Clean Ohio - Brownfield Redevelopment Strategies, Thursday, May 9, at 2:30 p.m., at the Springfield Inn, 100 S. Fountain Ave. **John Magill**, Office of Urban Development and an Ohio EPA representative will review the program. Representatives from the environmental consulting firm of Hull & Associates will follow with strategy planning for implementation of redevelopment within brownfields. An after hours networking event is planned at nearby Ashley's. Parking is available at the inn.

Annual Golf Outing: Tuesday, June 4, at **Meadowbrook Country Club**, 6001 Salem Ave. An excellent networking opportunity at I-70/75's annual "best ball" golf scramble. Day includes round of golf, bucket of balls for the driving range, refreshments on the course, dinner and prizes. Cost is \$80; \$30 for dinner only. Hole sponsors are \$100 each. Please register by **May 20**. For information, call Mike Lucking, 837-7771, x235.

Resources: A low-interest loan program, for companies negatively affected by the terrorists attacks of Sept. 11, has been extended. The Small Business Administration's **Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL)** deadline has been extended to April 22. The program will issue loans up to \$1.5 million dollars at 4% interest with a maximum term of 30 years. For information and to download an application, visit the SBA Web site at: www.sba.gov/distaster>www.sba.gov/disaster.

Regular monthly meetings: April 19, **Marty Hohenberger**, Automotive Initiative of the Miami Valley Economic Development Coalition, is featured speaker, 7:30 a.m. at Sinclair Community College, Bldg. 12; May 17, all-morning **tour at KitchenAid** complex in Greenville, May 17, car pooling is being planned. E-mail RSVPs to: marilyn.carter@nationalcity.com

Postscript: I-70/75's first social event of the year was ... a "hit." Members, their families and guests enjoyed a pleasant day of Dayton Dragons baseball, Sunday, April 7. It was only the team's third game of the season. **Brad Vath**, I-70/75 membership committee chair, was the group's big winner, with a nice snag of a foul ball. (Actually, sources reported he retrieved the ball after a bounce or two.) And one of his sons also won a prize in a raffle. In fact, the only downside of an otherwise perfect day was that the Dragons lost to the Fort Wayne Wizards.

How to contact I-70/75: Phone 937-226-8529, fax 937-226-2058, website, [www. I70-75.org](http://www.I70-75.org) or e-mail marilyn.carter@nationalcity.com Mailing address: P.O. Box 4605, Dayton, OH 45401-4605.

I-70/75 2002 officers: Beth Newton, president; Erik Collins, 1st vice president; Sara Dunnigan, 2nd vice president; David Anderson, secretary; Doug Harnish, treasurer; Mike Lucking, past president; Marilyn Carter, association administrator.