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**ODOT AWARDS \$600K FOR CLERMONT COUNTY PROJECTS
FUNDING SUPPORTS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF KEY TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES**

BATAVIA (October 31, 2012) – The Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID) announced today that it has been awarded \$600,000 from the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Office of Jobs and Commerce to support initiatives to improve access and mobility in the Eastgate area. Funded through House Bill 114 for Fiscal Year 2013, this is the largest funding allocation provided to a single Transportation Improvement District in the state.

“This is a huge win for the CCTID and for Clermont County,” said Clermont County Engineer Pat Manger. “The CCTID’s purpose is to design and construct projects that not only address local transportation needs but also facilitate economic development and growth. The fact that Clermont County was awarded this level of support is a clear demonstration that ODOT recognizes the value of the work we are doing and supports our efforts.”

The funding awards were divided among three projects:

The Aicholtz Connector Project - \$250,000 award

The 1.3 mile Aicholtz Connector will reconnect Mount Carmel-Tobasco Road and Eastgate Boulevard. Generally following the existing Old SR 74/Rust Lane/Aicholtz Road, the new connector will run underneath under I-275. The project will re-establish a vital link in the Eastgate area’s roadway network, help reduce congestion on SR 32 and improve access and mobility for local businesses and residences. The funding award for the Aicholtz Connector will be put toward finalizing the project’s design. Construction is expected to begin in 2015.

The Ivy Pointe Boulevard Extension Project - \$250,000 award

The Ivy Pointe project will extend the existing roadway approximately a quarter of a mile beyond the intersection of Ferguson Drive and Ivy Pointe Boulevard to Aicholtz Road. This extension will facilitate access in this area and set the stage for future office space development. The funding award for this project will be applied toward construction, which is expected to begin next summer.

The Eastgate North Frontage Road Project - \$100,000 award

The Eastgate North Frontage Road project involves widening and realigning a half-mile section of Eastgate North Drive. Beginning at the entrance to the Eastgate Mall and ending just east of

Clermont County Transportation Improvement District

2381 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, OH 45103

Jackson Square Drive, the project will support upcoming I-275/SR 32 interchange improvements which include widening SR 32 and reconfiguring the SR 32/Eastgate Boulevard interchange. The award for this project is designated for construction, which is currently underway and is expected to be complete by August 2013.

“This is a great example of the close cooperation that has developed between ODOT and the CCTID since it was established in 2006,” said Ed Humphrey, Vice President of the Clermont County Commissioners and President of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI). “We are diligently working through the CCTID to bring state and federal transportation dollars into Clermont County—funding that would otherwise be awarded to non-county projects if it weren’t for the CCTID’s excellent work.”

Commissioner David Uible added: "Clermont County is an exciting place to be right now. We are receiving a lot of positive feedback about the work we are doing. Not only are existing businesses choosing to stay, invest and expand here, new companies are wanting to come in and make Clermont their home. These projects go a long way to support the access needs for their people and for their products."

In addition to being a “win” for Clermont County, these funding awards are also a win for the Eastern Corridor Program. These projects are among the local roadway network improvements being implemented as part of the Program’s broader-scale, multi-modal transportation improvement plan. Another portion of the Eastern Corridor Program, the Oasis Rail Transit project, was also awarded \$200,000 to help secure right-of-way for the rail line’s track extension into downtown Cincinnati.

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Established in June 2006, the Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID) works with local communities and regional, state and federal agencies to stimulate economic development through transportation improvements. Projects advanced by the CCTID aim to ease congestion, expand access to business, shopping and new development while at the same time, establish the infrastructure needed to maintain the existing job base and facilitate future growth. More information about the CCTID is available at tid.clermontcountyohio.gov.