Major Summit County Commercial Development Benefits from Newly Formed Transportation Improvement District

Summit County Executive Russ Pry has announced the award of a $250,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation Division of Jobs and Commerce for road improvements in the Village of Boston Heights in support of a project that will retain 274 jobs and create more than 500 jobs. The 774 jobs are associated with the Arhaus World Headquarters, Costco Warehouse and Bass Pro Outdoor World development on Hines Hill Road.

Last year Summit County Council established the Summit County Transportation Improvement District (SCTID). The SCTID was created through state statute to foster intergovernmental and public-private cooperation to facilitate infrastructure improvements, which result in job creation or job retention. A Transportation Improvement District (TID) can plan, construct and improve highways, roads, bridges, interchanges and accompanying capital improvements and developments throughout the county and across political subdivisions. The SCTID has an independent board of directors consisting of five voting members, County Council President and Board Chairman; Ilene Shapiro, Connie Krauss, Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development Director, Summit County Engineer Al Brubaker; AMATS Director Jason Segedy, and Dan Rice, Director, Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition and two non-voting members who are residents of Summit County, Deborah Walsh and Joe Masich.

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“Boston Heights is a relatively small community with a third of the Village located in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The park is beautiful, however, it greatly limits opportunities for the Village to grow its tax base by bringing in new jobs,” explains Executive Russ Pry. “This grant will aid in improvements to Hines Hill Road that will serve the development that results in more than 700 jobs for the area.”

“With only 1,300 residents, the Village would have a very difficult time affording the estimated $1.86 million cost of the road project on its own,” said Ilene Shapiro, SCTID Board Chair and Summit County Council President. “We are pleased the SCTID was awarded the maximum grant for its very first project. The SCTID is a great development tool and we hope that this project is only the beginning of the positive impact the SCTID can bring to Summit County.”

Due to the proximity of the site to SR-8 and the Ohio Turnpike (I-80), it is a highly desirable site for retailers looking to draw from a regional customer base. Under the plan, the existing old 2-lane country road will be widened to a 3-lane and 4-lane road with turn lanes, traffic signal, and other safety improvements to handle the vastly increased traffic, especially truck traffic.

Construction is underway on the Hines Hill Road improvements. Arhaus is currently under construction with a completion date of November 2015. Costco is planning to start construction in September 2015, with a store opening later this year. Bass Pro is planning to start construction in September 2015 with a store opening planned for September of 2016.

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