

The Eastern Corridor

FACT SHEET

► Implementation Partners

- Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District
- Clermont County Transportation Improvement District
- City of Cincinnati
- Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority
- Ohio Department of Transportation, District 8

The Eastern Corridor Program is administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Eastern Corridor Implementation Partners.

OVERVIEW

The Eastern Corridor Program is a regional effort. It integrates roadway network improvements, new rail transit options, expanded bus service, bikeways and walking paths to improve travel and access between Greater Cincinnati's eastern communities and its central employment, economic and social centers.

Comprised of a comprehensive series of projects, the Eastern Corridor Program will address critical congestion issues, make travel between and among the eastern communities and the region's core easier and safer, and will help get more people out of their cars, onto trains and buses, riding their bikes and walking.

The Eastern Corridor Program has been developed through nearly 15 years of extensive economic development, land use visioning and environmental impact studies which were conducted in close collaboration with the Eastern Corridor communities. When complete, the program will:

- **Ease** travel through the region
- **Establish** safer and more efficient travel connections
- **Provide** travel options within the Corridor for those who cannot or choose not to drive: new rail transit, expanded bus service and improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians
- **Reduce** congestion, travel times and daily wear on local roadways
- **Eliminate** up to 50 million vehicle miles of travel from the region's roadways each year, reducing fuel consumption, air pollution and accidents
- **Support** the land use, economic development and environmental stewardship visions developed in coordination with Eastern Corridor communities
- **Provide** the infrastructure needed to facilitate community enhancement, economic development and sustainable regional growth

The Process

Currently in the second phase of study and development, the Eastern Corridor Program has been divided into four core projects. Although functionally independent, these projects are interrelated and complementary to each other. The combined completion of all projects will allow our region to realize the greatest benefit from these transportation investments. The four core Eastern Corridor projects are:

- Red Bank Corridor Project
- State Route (SR) 32 Relocation Project
- SR 32 Improvements, Eastgate Area
- Oasis Rail Transit

These projects are currently undergoing Tier 2 analysis, the second phase of the stringent project development and evaluation process prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Each project is being examined in close detail and evaluated for function, impact, context, constructability and affordability. Project alternatives will be narrowed and refined as additional information is obtained and specific impacts are better known. Tier 2 analysis for each project will conclude by identifying a preferred alternative that, unless a No Build option is chosen, will eventually undergo detailed design and construction.

NEPA Process

The NEPA process focuses on identifying a proposed project's potential effects on the natural and cultural environment and identifying ways to avoid or minimize negative impacts before final decisions are made.

Eastern Corridor Projects

The Eastern Corridor Program consists of four core projects. The projects are centered on roadway and rail transit elements, however, each project also includes bus, bicycle and pedestrian components. The projects are described below. Project area maps and more information about each project is available on the Eastern Corridor website.

► Red Bank Corridor

The Red Bank Corridor project extends approximately 2.5 miles between US-50 (Columbia Parkway) in Fairfax and the I-71 ramp in Madisonville. The project's goal is to create a balance of mobility and access along this important connector to improve travel and better serve local businesses and adjacent neighborhoods. The project will reduce congestion and delays along the Red Bank Expressway and at key intersections, improve accessibility and travel safety, and provide new accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians.

► State Route 32 (SR-32) Relocation

The SR 32 Relocation project extends between US 50 in Fairfax to SR 32 and Bells Lane, just west of the I-275 interchange in Clermont County. The project will establish a multi-modal transportation corridor that includes an improved SR 32 on new alignment; new rail and bus transit options; local roadway network improvements; and expanded accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. The project would improve the flow of traffic through the corridor, thus decreasing congestion and travel times and increasing travel safety. A new connection between SR 32, US 50 (Columbia Parkway) and Red Bank Road will provide the Eastern Corridor communities with a direct link to the Red Bank corridor and I-71.

► State Route 32 Improvements, Eastgate Area

The Eastern Corridor's multiple Eastgate Area improvement projects focus on making travel easier and safer along SR 32, from the I-275 Interchange to Olive Branch-Stonelick Road. Goals are to better accommodate current and future traffic, reduce congestion and travel delays and improve travel safety and access to local shopping, businesses and neighborhoods. The projects include wider lanes and access improvements along SR 32; relocated and better-spaced entrance/exit ramps and traffic signals; and a reconfiguration of the I-275/SR-32 and SR 32/Eastgate Boulevard interchanges.

► Oasis Rail Transit

Offering a new, world-class transportation alternative to the Greater Cincinnati region, Oasis Rail Transit is a commuter/passenger rail line that will transport residents, workers and visitors between downtown Cincinnati and communities extending into western Clermont County. The 17-mile Oasis line is the foundation upon which Greater Cincinnati's envisioned regional rail system can be built to better connect our region. Oasis also offers new opportunities for community enhancement, revitalization and economic growth through the creation of transit oriented developments – mixed-used community spaces – that will surround the new stations built to serve the rail line and its passengers.

Public Involvement

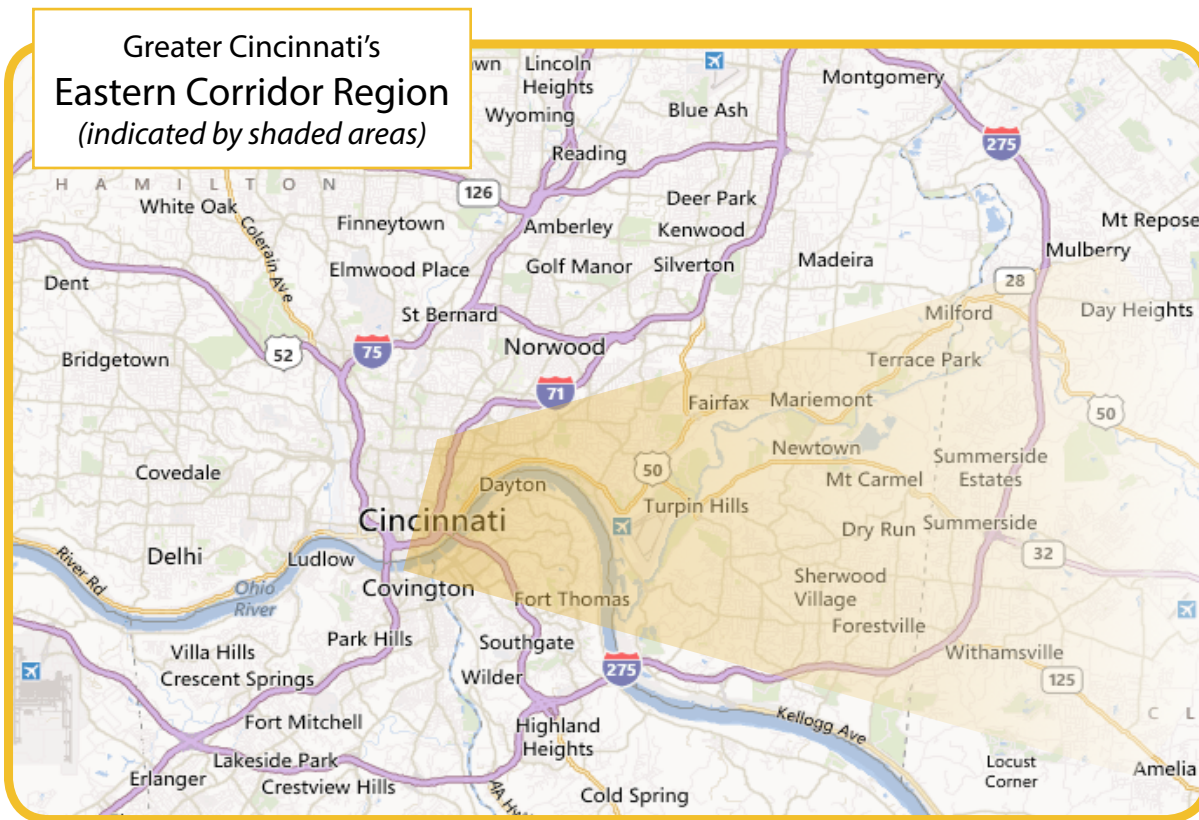
Public participation has played a critical role in determining the purpose and need for the Eastern Corridor Program and shaping its supporting projects. Public involvement continues to be instrumental as the proposed projects undergo further development, evaluation and refinement.

As part of the current Tier 2 analysis work, the Eastern Corridor Implementation Partners are working closely with stakeholders to examine and refine proposed

Program elements into alternatives that best meet the needs of the Program and the region's communities.*

The public is able to engage in the planning process by participating in public involvement meetings, Community Partner Committees, attending public presentations and corresponding with project representatives at meetings, through the Eastern Corridor website (www.EasternCorridor.org) and through social media networking. *Continued on Page 4.*

Greater Cincinnati's
Eastern Corridor Region
(indicated by shaded areas)



At-A-Glance

Spanning nearly 165 square miles, the Eastern Corridor Program area extends east from downtown Cincinnati through Hamilton County to just beyond the I-275 corridor in Clermont County.

There are few direct routes connecting Eastern Corridor communities with Cincinnati's central economic and social centers. Instead, commuters are using circuitous routes on I-275, I-471 and congested surface streets to reach their destinations.

These transportation routes already exceed their designed capacity, and population growth and economic expansion continues to take place within the Eastern Corridor. This intensifies road congestion, increases travel time and fuel consumption and impedes the efficient movement of people, goods and services.

The Eastern Corridor Program's multi-modal solutions will address these long-standing transportation needs of the Eastern Corridor and will provide valuable opportunities for community enhancement, economic development and sustainable regional growth.

► **For more information, visit www.EasternCorridor.org or call the Eastern Corridor hotline at 513.888.7625.**

► **Questions and comments can be sent to EasternCorridor@EasternCorridor.org.**

Public Involvement, continued.

Email can be sent to Program representatives at EasternCorridor@EasternCorridor.org. Further information about public involvement opportunities is posted on the Program website under the Public Involvement tab.

**Efforts will keep consistent with the stated objectives and purposes identified in the 2005 Tier 1 FEIS and the Federal Highway Administration's 2006 Record of Decision (ROD).*

