



### What is the Eastern Corridor?

The Eastern Corridor is a program of multimodal transportation improvements that integrates land use, economic development and environmental stewardship to address the growing regional travel demand between downtown Cincinnati and its eastern suburbs.

### Why is the Project Needed?

The existing Eastern Corridor transportation network exhibits congestion and delays during peak travel times and high accident rates. A number of underlying issues contribute to these problems:

- Limited mode choice in the greater Cincinnati area with travel dominated by automobiles
- Traffic volumes in excess of capacity on a mostly 2-lane existing roadway network
- Poor connectivity to downtown Cincinnati
- Inefficient movement of goods and services due to delays and travel inefficiencies

### What's already been completed?

A complex project like the Eastern Corridor involves extensive planning and is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate consequences to the environment. A planning study led by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) was completed in 2000 and beginning in 2002, the Eastern Corridor has been following a tiered approach to address NEPA. The Tier 1 study completed in 2006 identified a multimodal plan for further evaluation, including new highway capacity improvements, new rail transit, and local improvements such as expanded bus transit, bikeways and upgrades to the existing network. Tier 1 also established a context sensitive framework for the Eastern Corridor by incorporating recommendations of a Land Use Vision Plan and Green Infrastructure Master Plan developed by local communities.

Eastern Corridor Milestones	
Major Investment Study	2000
Land Use Vision Plan	2002
Tier 1 Draft EIS	2004
Tier 1 Final EIS	2005
Green Infrastructure Plan	2005
Tier 1 Record of Decision	2006

### Moving Forward

The current Eastern Corridor study is being administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with FHWA, FTA, and local partners including Hamilton County, Clermont County, the City of Cincinnati, SORTA/Metro and OKI. The current work involves further development of new highway capacity and rail transit components of the Tier 1 plan, and includes four projects:

- **Red Bank Corridor** - capacity and access improvements from I-71 to US 50 in Fairfax
- **Relocated SR 32** - controlled access on new alignment from US 50 to I-275 in Eastgate
- **SR 32 Eastgate** - new capacity improvements on SR 32 in western Clermont County
- **Oasis Rail Transit** - new rail transit from the Cincinnati Riverfront to Milford

These four projects are being developed as separate, but closely coordinated Tier 2 studies consistent with the goals established in Tier 1 for integrating land use, economic development, and environmental stewardship. Tier 2 involves refining alternatives and more detailed environmental and engineering studies to identify a preferred alternative for each of these improvement corridors. This work is being coordinated with other parts of the Eastern Corridor being developed at the local level, including expanded bus transit, bikeways and local roadway network improvements. Through this coordinated program approach, the various components of the Eastern Corridor will be brought on line incrementally over time as part of a long-term public and private investment framework.

# EASTERN CORRIDOR MULTIMODAL PROGRAM TIER 2 PROJECTS

