



July 3, 2007

News Release

**RESIDENTS VOICE SUPPORT FOR
IMPROVED I-75 EXIT 47 PROJECT**

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Approximately 100 people attended the public open house at the West Carrollton Civic Center on Wednesday, June 27, to learn more about the Ohio Department of Transportation’s plans to improve Interstate 75’s Exit 47.

Those who attended got the chance to view displays and maps of the planned improvements to the exit. In addition to improvements to the local roads, the plans include construction of a diamond-shaped interchange consisting of four direct ramps to and from I-75. “The goal of the project is to dramatically reduce the number of circuitous miles traveled by the public,” according to ODOT officials.

Many of the comments from the residents showed support for the project. “I think this project is very important to the future growth of West Carrollton,” said Roberta Phillips. “The sooner we get started, the better,” Phillips also said she approved of the design because it would have minimal environmental impact.

The project is expected to have a major impact on economic development growth for the communities of West Carrollton and Moraine.

“When complete, the exit will provide access to approximately 650,000 square feet of available existing building space and 450 acres of available land,” said Tracy Williams, West Carrollton city manager. “It’s important to recognize that all of these sites are serviced by existing infrastructure,” Williams said. Estimates also show a potential for 7,000 new jobs to be created by the project.

The project is also important because it will improve public safety and congestion in the area. West Carrollton and Moraine city leaders have recently lobbied federal lawmakers to gain support for the project. A \$2 million dollar appropriations request has been submitted to the 2008 Congressional Budget.

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The city has obtained \$14.4 million in commitments from federal, state and local organizations including: Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Montgomery County ED/GE, Ohio Department of Transportation and the cities of Moraine and West Carrollton. The total estimate for the project is approximately \$27 million.

Other elements included in the plan are:

- A new ramp from Dixie Drive will enter I-75 near the existing northbound bridge over Holes Creek. The northbound I-75 bridge will be widened to accommodate this ramp. A lane will be added to this bridge to accommodate traffic during construction.
- Central Avenue will be modified to operate as a traditional two-way arterial roadway. The intersection of Central Ave./Dixie Drive and Dryden Road will be turned into a signalized intersection. The eastbound Dixie Drive bridge will be widened to create a turn lane for Dryden Road.
- Dixie Drive will be maintained to provide two-way access to the residential neighborhood located on the north side of the railroad.
- A section of the Great Miami River Trail will be relocated to provide a pedestrian crossing at the corner of Marina Drive and Crossover Street.

The deadline to submit additional comments about the project is July 11. Comments can be submitted to Sherry Wampler-Ley, Project Manager, ODOT-Vandalia Office, 330 James E. Bohanan Memorial Dr., Vandalia OH 45377.

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For more information, call **Tracy Williams**, city manager, at (937) 859-5183.