



March 17, 2007

### News Release

#### **WEST CARROLLTON MAYOR LOBBIES FOR LOCAL ISSUES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Mayor Maxine Gilman visited Washington, D.C., March 11-14 to meet with fellow municipal leaders and members of Congress.

Gilman attended the National League of Cities Congressional Conference and took time to meet personally with Senator Sherrod Brown and the legislative assistants of Senator George Voinovich and Representative Mike Turner. During her visit, she aimed to bring attention to the need for federal funding of the Exit 47 Interchange project and the Holes Creek and Owl Creek Flood Protection projects.

The city of West Carrollton has submitted a \$2 million appropriations request for the 2008 Congressional Budget for construction of additional access ramps to Exit 47 on Interstate 75.

Preliminary engineering has been completed and the city has obtained \$14.5 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 cost estimate for the project is approximately \$27 million.

The project, which would create on-and-off exit ramps in all directions to Dixie Drive/Central Avenue, would ease traffic flow and improve safety, according to Maureen Parsons, West Carrollton civil engineer.

“Better access to and from I-75 is critical to redevelopment efforts in the cities of West Carrollton and Moraine,” according to Mayor Gilman.

In addition to the Interstate Project, the city has also made a \$3 million request in federal funding for Phase 1 of the Owl Creek Flood Protection Project. The money for this project would be used to reduce the potential flood liability for residents in the West Carrollton area.

The total costs for the entire project involving property acquisition, bridge expansions and creek widening is estimated at \$10 million. “When complete, approximately 400 residential and commercial structures would be removed from the 100-year floodplain,” according to Parsons.

The city anticipates phasing this project over three years if federal funding is made available.

The mayor also sought support for a \$4 million request submitted by the Miami Conservancy District to complete flood protection undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The area on the north side of Holes Creek was left incomplete by the Corps when the necessary funds were diverted to other federal projects

Speakers during the Congressional conference included U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters, Senators Joe Biden (D-Del.), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), Norm Coleman (R-Minn.), Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), U.S. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.), Representative James Oberstar (D-Minn.) and news analysts and political commentators George Stephanopoulos and David Gergen.

Mayor Gilman said the sessions were interesting and educational. Just as important, she said, was the opportunity to network and share “best-practices” with elected officials from other communities.

“Sharing successful projects and programs allows us to continue to meet our goals and continue to improve the quality of life in our community,” Gilman said.

The National League of Cities is the nation’s oldest and largest organizations devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. The NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

“This conference is a valuable opportunity for local leaders to let their representatives in Congress know that changes they make at the federal level can have profound affects at the local level,” said NLC President and Indianapolis, Ind. Mayor Bart Peterson. “Regardless of federal policy changes, local governments have a mandate to meet the needs of our citizens.”

-end-

For media interviews, contact **Mayor Maxine Gilman** at (937) 859-5183. Call **Maureen Parsons**, West Carrollton civil engineer, at (937) 847-4662.

