

**Subject: Groundbreaking New Ohio Law Maximizes Community Benefits, Minimizes Public Costs Through Private Investment, and Creates Powerful Engines for Progress**

A new law enacted as part of the Ohio's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 operating budget (Ohio House Bill 33) which Governor Michael DeWine signed on July 5, 2023, shifts the development and funding paradigm for infrastructure across the nation. The Law has already catalyzed private proposals, indicating a harbinger for Expeditious Processes which maximizes community benefits, minimizes public costs, and opens the door for big private investments in innovative projects which will change a section of the historic Lincoln Highway from a single purpose project for the benefit of vehicular transportation to a multipurpose project which will transform the economies of the communities through which it passes.

As enacted, the amended Ohio Statute incorporates essentially all of the recommendations of the Strategic Infrastructure Performance Institute's Hall of Fame working group <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/636bf107ea73011f3feef27c/t/63c89e16bccd5b67ff50ce67/1674092054869/Hall+of+Fame+Update.pdf>. It:

- Empowers the Stark/Carroll/Columbiana County Regional Transportation Improvement Project to acquire, plan and develop a one mile wide extended right of way along a segment of the Lincoln Highway and connecting roads within the RTIP's jurisdiction, and to work with the private sector to create and operate a unique Public/Private Enterprise. The Enterprise will operate "like a business" and enlist blue chip private sector companies in the development of projects, within the extended right of way, which will benefit the "pass-through" communities and generate revenues for funding of the highway project as well as to support the well-being of impacted communities.
- Expects the Enterprise and its projects to serve as testbeds for innovative digital and AI technologies to expedite permitting and procurement, facilitate community input, enhance project management, and generate revenues from private sector investment.
- Expects the Enterprise, its projects, and the investments from private sector participants to greatly reduce the public cost of essential highway projects, increase the number of such projects that can be undertaken and, at the same time, beneficially transform local economies.

The new law opens the way for private investment in the Enterprise as well as in projects planned for the extended ROW area. Proposals are already being received, including one for an innovative new Green Data Center to support the digital twin analyses that will support the planning effort. RTIP is open for business and credible proposals will be evaluated,

This legislation was developed based on the recommendations of a Core Group of approximately 40 cutting-edge infrastructure companies coordinated through the Non-Profit Strategic Infrastructure Performance Institute. Its successful implementation will depend in large part on continued response from the infrastructure and investment communities and cooperation from the federal government in providing flexibility and breaking down bureaucratic silos. Expeditious action from the federal government to re-purpose and renew an existing Build-Grant to keep the door open, for the expected volumes of contingent private capital, as exemplified by the unsolicited indication of interest from a group of leading tech companies, proposing to build an advanced data center and associated campus within the extended right of way. This project can serve as tenant and anchor for the OH-30 Project.

Broad-based support is needed, and additional investment is encouraged. Please contact the Institute at the following address:

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We will respond promptly.

The Regional Transportation Improvement Project ("RTIP"), an agency serving Carroll, Columbiana and Stark counties, Ohio, is taking the lead to advance the long-awaited extension of a segment of the US 30 freeway east of Canton. The RTIP is the only multi-county transportation improvement agency established under Ohio law with authority to use tax increment financing and other innovative means of project finance to raise funds for transportation improvements.

To support the funding of the build, the RTIP seeks to commercialize a series of ancillary revenues derived from exploring Rights-of-Way ("ROW") revenue streams. These revenue opportunities include fiber optic development, natural gas pipelines, 5G towers and data sales, express lanes/managed lanes, dedicated autonomous vehicle ("AV") lanes, electric vehicle ("EV") charging, lighting poles, billboards, and service stations.