



Nelsonville Bypass / Athens County

Project Name: Nelsonville Bypass - Phase 2 (23846)

Community (County/City): Athens County, City of Nelsonville

Project Description: Construction will focus on the West end of a new four-lane roadway between Nelsonville and Logan, Ohio. This project is Phase II of a nine-mile, three-phase project that will effectively complete the upgrade of US 33 Corridor in Southeast Ohio. The US 33 Corridor is a designated National Highway System route that extends from Michigan to Virginia.

Project Sponsor: ODOT

Community Economic Distress Factors: 8.0% unemployment rate, Athens County has the highest poverty rate in Ohio, median household income is \$27,322, compared to Ohio's \$40,956 (Athens County Job and Family Services, 2005-2006 Annual Report)

Economic Development Potential: SR 4 Bypass was built in the late 1960's as a 2 lane highway on a 4 lane (approximately 200' wide) right of way with the idea that expansion could occur in the future as needed. Area business, commercial and residential growth has increased dramatically in the last 10-15 years and has caused the highway capacity to be substantially diminished. The congestion has diminished opportunity for greater economic development in this area. Phase 2 and 3 are the last pieces of the Nelsonville Bypass to complete and modernize the corridor. US 33 carries a substantial amount of interstate traffic between Athens, Meigs, Vinton, Washington, and Morgan counties in Ohio. As well, the

corridor will provide a direct connection to interstates leading into major metropolitan cities such as Columbus, Ohio, Charleston, West Virginia, Columbia, South Carolina, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Specifically, the corridor will save travelers at least an hour from Columbus, Ohio to Charleston, West Virginia. Moreover, US 33 will provide a safe connection to I-77 and make travel easier through Appalachia. The investment in the US 33 Corridor will have the greatest local, regional, and multi-state impact of any other transportation project in District 10.

Direct Construction Jobs to be Created: 305

Multi-modal Connectivity/Innovation Factor: The project location carries a substantial amount of interstate traffic between cities such as Fort Wayne Indiana; Columbus, Ohio; and Charleston, West Virginia. Alternates to US 33, including interstates, are long and roundabout. Hilly terrain limits parallel corridors, concentrating regional travel to US 33. Southeastern Ohio has a large industrial conglomeration of coal, power, lumber, trucking, and plastic facilities. Meigs County alone will station five power plants within the next two years. These plants employ a large number of the population in District 10 and provide continuous economic development within the county. The US 33 Corridor will provide the needed transportation infrastructure to support current and future commerce to Appalachia. Furthermore, because of its rich history and unique culture, Southeastern Ohio has become a tourist destination. Travel destinations include Hocking Hills, Wayne National Forest (Ohio's only National Forest), Marietta, Ohio (Ohio's first permanent settlement), and numerous other historical, cultural, and outdoor sites. District 10 also harbors well respected educational institutes such as Ohio University, Hocking College, Marietta College, Washington State Community College, and Rio Grande.

Work to Begin: October 13, 2009

Estimated Completion: July, 2013

Stimulus Investment: \$45,522,526

Total Project Cost: \$49,814,590 /\$200,000,000