



Frank Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation

Project Name: Frank Blvd. pavement rehabilitation (8451)

Community: Summit County/City of Akron

Project Description: The project includes rehabilitating the existing Frank Boulevard including a reconstructed intersection with White Pond Drive

Project Sponsor: City of Akron

Community Economic Distress Factors: Summit County unemployment rate is 09.5% and the annual average income is \$26,560.

Economic Development Potential: In order to accommodate traffic between West Market Street and I-77, Frank Boulevard requires improvement. Quality arterial roadways are important to the economic stimulus of the area. Several existing and proposed office parks exist between I-77 and Market Street that uses Frank Blvd. as the arterial roadway. First Energy employs 1500 adjacent to this roadway, and a future office park is anticipated to have 1000 employees. There are numerous businesses along West Market Street that would benefit from easy access to I-77 as well as potential customers travelling from First Energy and the future West Side Office Park.

Frank Boulevard will provide an important arterial connection between West Market Street and White Pond Drive, and subsequently to I-77. White Pond Drive was reconstructed and widened (2007) to accommodate the recent First Energy expansion as well as the future West Side Office Park. West Market Street was also widened and reconstructed (2006). Frank Boulevard is the last link required to complete direct arterial access from West Market Street and I-77.

Multi-Modal Connectivity/Innovation Factor: Bridgestone/Firestone is constructing a new \$100 million, state-of-the-art technical center in Akron which will serve as the headquarters for Bridgestone\Firestone's Research & Development activities for both North and South America. Bridgestone/Firestone has a long history in Akron and its continued presence strengthens the region's strategic position as a center of excellence in polymers/rubber and materials science, and is a catalyst for the redevelopment of an urban neighborhood. The Ohio Department of Development partnered with the City of Akron, Summit County, FirstEnergy Corporation, and the Summit County Port Authority to secure the project in Ohio.

Work to Begin: Summer 2009

Estimated Completion: Spring 2010

Stimulus Investment: \$3,238,357

Total Project Cost: \$3,261,677