



## Rickenbacker-Alum Creek Drive Extension/Franklin County



**Project Name:** Alum Creek Drive Extension (6062)

**Community:** Pickaway and Franklin Counties/Columbus

**Project Description:** The Rickenbacker area, 10 miles southeast of Columbus, includes Rickenbacker International Airport, the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal and an industrial area. Building a new road that includes better alignment with State Route 317 will improve safe and ease congestion. The project will construct a new four-lane divided highway with turn lanes as needed and an intersection upgrade at Alum Creek Drive and Groveport Road. Improving Alum Creek Drive could fix what economic proponents have said is among the chief hurdles to the industry's growth around Rickenbacker Airport.

**Project Sponsor:** ODOT, City of Columbus, Columbus Regional Airport Authority, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Organization (MORPC)

**Community Economic Distress Factors:** Franklin County unemployment rate is 7.2% compared to Ohio's unemployment rate of 9.7%. The average yearly income is \$42,735. Pickaway County's unemployment rate is 10.5% and the average yearly income is \$41,832.

**Economic Development Potential:** The Rickenbacker area, which includes Rickenbacker International Airport, the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal, Rickenbacker Global Logistics Park and other industrial parks, is well positioned to become one of the country's leading logistics hubs. Rickenbacker is an international multi-modal cargo airport, a charter passenger terminal, and an economic engine of the Central Ohio region, servicing customer needs around the world. The area's Foreign Trade Zone offers many costs savings in the processing and distribution of international cargo at the airport, and will be a strategic stop on the three-year railway capacity improvement project called the Heartland Corridor.

**Multi-modal Connectivity/Innovation Factor:** Both Norfolk Southern Railroad and the Virginia Port Authority have discussed the important role the Rickenbacker area plays to international shipping companies looking for growth and access through East Coast ports. There is a three-year plan underway to increase the volume and speed of containerized freight moving in double-stack trains between the East Coast and Midwest. The area connects the Port of Virginia to Chicago by way of the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal. An international logistics company recently announced plans to relocate to an office at Rickenbacker because of its proximity to government agencies, an international airport and an intermodal facility.

**Work to Begin:** 31 to 91 days

**Estimated Completion:** Spring 2011

**Stimulus Investment:** \$13,029,122

**Total Project Cost:** \$13,215,873