



Northwest Industrial Connector/Marion County

Project Name Northwest Industrial Connector (7439)

Community: Marion County/City of Marion

Project Description: Marion County is in a unique position in that its industrial base is on the west side of the county, yet the major route for moving commerce is located on the east side of Marion. The Northwest Industrial Connector involves the construction of a 2.5 mile roadway that will begin on the west side of Marion at US 95, near the Whirlpool plant, and proceed northwest around the city to connect with US 23 via Marion-Williamsport Road. The project includes a rail overpass over the CSX track that currently supplies the POET ethanol plant. \$12 million has already been secured from the city of Marion, Marion County, the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, and Ohio Public Works grants and loans.

Project Sponsor: Marion County Engineer

Community Economic Distress Factors: The Marion County unemployment rate is 11.6% compared to Ohio's unemployment rate of 9.7%. The average yearly income is \$30, 156.

Economic Development Potential: The Whirlpool Corporation, Marion County's largest employer with 2700 employees announced a major expansion along with a request from the Ohio Department of Development for a new roadway that is safer and more direct for the transport of goods and services. Right now, Whirlpool and other industries located on the west side of the community must have their heavy trucks travel through a congested downtown with traffic signals in order to get to US 23 and the Marion Intermodal Center.

Multi-modal Connectivity/Innovation Factor: The project includes better access to Whirlpool, a \$130 million Ethanol plant that recently located to Marion County and the Intermodal Railroad Transportation facility at the former Marion Depot located on the east side . The Northwest Industrial Connector will allow Marion to transport products more efficiently by rail then to truck. Constructing an overpass over the CSX track will also reduce congestion and create a safer route for travel.

Work to Begin: 180 days

Estimated Completion: 2010

Stimulus Investment: \$5,100,000

Total Project Cost: \$5,381,565