



State Routes 39 & 83 Rehab/Holmes County



Project Name: State Route 39 & State Route 83 Rehab (13104)

Community: Holmes County, Village of Millersburg

Project Description: Repair and resurface over a mile of State Route 39 from Grant St. to Port Washington Rd. in the village of Millersburg as well as two miles of State Route 83 from Jackson St. to the western village corporation limit. Major state routes traverse through the center of the village, carrying significant traffic through the downtown and causing a faster rate of pavement deterioration on these two routes than on other area roadways. This deterioration is prohibiting safe travel in the village and discouraging tourism which the local economies rely on heavily.

Project Sponsor: Village of Millersburg

Community Economic Distress Factors: 4.45% Holmes County jobless rate, \$22,417 average annual income

Economic Development Potential: Holmes County is the heart of the largest Amish community in the world. Of more than 40,000 county residents, nearly 19,000 are Amish! The county relies on the Amish for their local economies via tourism. Millersburg is the county seat and is home to a hospital, many government offices, a post office, several banks, grocery stores, shops, a library, and a variety of offices. Nationally Registered Historic Downtown Millersburg is known for Victorian architecture and a bevy of antique stores and unique boutiques. Tourism travelers are taking alternate routes to avoid the current condition of these roadways, thus the local economy is suffering. Increased tourism will directly relate to increased business and employment opportunities.

Multi-modal Connectivity/Innovation Factor: Ohio has the largest Amish population in the world. It is estimated that over 50,000 Amish live in Ohio with most in the northeastern part of the state, including Holmes County. The Old Order Amish, which includes over 35,000 of the Amish population, do not drive cars or motorized farm equipment. Therefore, this thoroughfare in downtown Millersburg is not only important to vehicular traffic but also to horse-drawn buggies, pedestrians and bicyclists.

Work to Begin: 31-90 days

Estimated Completion: One month (Fall 2009)

Stimulus Investment: \$241,040

Total Project Cost: \$2,747,270