Voices of Ohioans Shape 3C Passenger Rail Plan

Cleveland-area Public Meeting set for September 16, 2009

On-line, on the phone, on the radio, and in person - more Ohioans are making their voices and opinions heard on Ohio’s 3C “Quick Start” Passenger Rail Plan.

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) are gathering broad public input on the 3C “Quick Start” Passenger Rail Plan, which will connect Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati as part of the nationally-prioritized Chicago Hub Network.

Public input and expert technical analysis are helping ORDC and ODOT identify the most viable routes for the initial 79-mph 3C “Quick Start” service. With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the 3C “Quick Start” plan would have conventional-al-speed passenger service running by as early as 2011, generating jobs and economic development, and putting travel choice in reach of more than 60 percent of Ohio’s population.

Thousands of Ohioans across the state have already proclaimed, “Ohio’s 3C is Me!” by logging on to 3CisME.ohio.gov, an online portal to find the latest news and share public comments on passenger rail. The website has registered more than 5,000 hits since its launch in July.

Today, ORDC and ODOT are adding several more ways for Ohioans to provide comment and learn more about the passenger rail proposal:

• Statewide radio - now airing as a public service announcement on approximately 200 radio stations in Ohio in cooperation with the Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

• Columbus – 4-7 p.m. September 16, Cleveland Airport Holiday Inn, 4181 W. 150th St., Cleveland. Served by RTA routes 66X (Red Line Rapid), 70, 78 and 809.

• Cincinnati – 4-7 p.m. September 17, City Hall Council Chambers, 801 Plum St., Cincinnati. Served by Metro routes 1, 6, 10, 32, 33, 40X, 49 and 50.

• Cleveland – 4-7 p.m. September 16, 7098 Meridian Rd., Oberlin. Served by RTA routes 236X, 800, 801, 802 and 803.

• Dayton – 4-7 p.m. September 16, Schuster Center, 900 W. Third St., Dayton. Served by RTA routes 66X, 800, 801, 802 and 803.

• Columbus – 4-7 p.m. Sept. 15, King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Ave., Columbus. Served by COTA routes 61, 16, 81.

• Toledo – 4-7 p.m. Sept. 16, Lordstown Antioch Church, 2367 N. 15th St., Toledo. Served by RTA routes 62X (Green Line Rapid), 70, 78 and 809.

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ODOT Winters to be more “Green”

ODOT Snow Plows receive state’s first Green Fleets Status

This coming winter will be more “green” in Ohio. By reducing diesel emissions and using more alternative fuels on nearly 800 snow plows, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has earned one of the state’s first “Ohio Green Fleets” certifications.

Officials from Clean Fuels Ohio, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority certified ODOT’s effort at the inaugural Ohio Green Fleets Award Ceremony today in Columbus.

Over the past eight months, nearly half of the dump trucks and snow plows ODOT uses for combating ice and snow have become “Green Fleets” certified.

In District 12 alone, 74 trucks have become “Green Fleets” certified.

“This is a great start! Our ‘Go with Green’ initiative is meant to take our efforts to the next level,” said ODOT Director Jolene M. Molitoris, who expects the remainder of ODOT’s snow plow fleet to be certified by the end of the year. “Each day, we are working to make ODOT a more environmentally-conscious department and a green leader in the nation.”

As part of the “Go with Green” initiative, ODOT crews are reducing engine idle time on these large trucks - which reduces diesel emissions into the air - and are using more biodiesel as an alternative fuel whenever possible.

Over the past year, ODOT purchased more than 1.8 million gallons of B20 biodiesel for its fleet statewide. B20 (a blend of 20 percent by volume biodiesel with 80 percent by volume petroleum diesel) has demonstrated significant environmental benefits with a minimum increase in cost for fleet operations.

According to Clean Fuels Ohio, ODOT’s fleet has made great strides to reduce harmful vehicle emissions and petroleum fuel consumption. Clean Fuels Ohio is a statewide non-profit, organization dedicated to increasing the use of cleaner and energy-efficient domestic fuels and vehicles in order to improve air quality and health, reduce climate change, curb dependence on imported petroleum, and support Ohio’s economy.
NEWS IN THE MAKING: Around District 12

Mark your Calendar:

Labor Day: September 7
Patriot Day: September 11
Autumn Begins: September 22

2009 CCC Kick-Off
Cleveland Event: September 8

The 2009 State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign 2009 Campaign Kickoffs will be held in Cleveland and Columbus on September 8 and 9, respectively.

The Cleveland event will be held at the Lausche Building at 615 W. Superior Avenue at 10 a.m. followed by an information fair from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The Columbus event will be held at the Riffe Center at 77 S. High Street at 12:45 p.m. and will include remarks by Governor Ted Strickland.

Remember: It’s Your Campaign. Your Choice.

Gear Up for OTEC
OTEC: October 27-28

Attention engineers, designers, and technical staff! It’s that time of year again... The 63rd Annual Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) will be held October 27 through 28, 2009, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The theme for this year’s conference is “Moving Ohio into a Prosperous New World.”

“Each individual must register on-line no later than October 2, 2009. After receiving approval from your direct supervisor to attend, you may register on-line at www.otechohio.org. All ODOT registration will be processed on-line using an ODOT credit card. Please see the appropriate credit card holder in your work unit when registering. The authorization code is 2009OTEC.

For more information, please log-on to www.otechohio.org. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Barnhart at 614.387.3201.

Thank you and enjoy the conference!

2 Million Ohio Kids Are Counting on You!

Two million reasons to ‘Take Care, Be Aware’

ODOT Safety Effort aims to reduce 1828 School Bus Accidents last year

Lucas TVP is a direct result of the work performed by Rick Pesta and Dave Lastovka. "The successful sale of the Cleveland/Akron-Canton ITS design," said Saylor, "simply put, Dave’s efforts were outstanding given the role he was thrust into and the complexity of design and timeliness required to address critical review schedules," said Saylor.

“P.E., Senior ITS Engineer in ODOT’s Office of Traffic Engineering. ‘He was courteous, knowledgeable, and timely in his handling of the numerous critical issues facing this type of project.’

During Rick’s extended leave Dave Lastovka temporarily assumed project management duties for the Cleveland/Akron-Canton ITS design.

“Simply put, Dave’s efforts were outstanding given the role he was thrust into and the complexity of design and timeliness required to address critical review schedules,” said Saylor.

“The successful sale of the Cleveland/Akron-Canton ITS project is a direct result of the work performed by Rick Pesta and Dave Lastovka. I enjoyed working with the District 12 Production staff on this project and I credit them with resolving the many issues which this project faced over the past three years,”

Thank you to Rick and Dave for their efforts. They are certainly not unnoticed.

Donate: Save a Life

According to the American Red Cross every minute of every day, someone needs blood - and that blood can only come from a donor who makes the choice to donate.

Seventeen District 12 employees made the choice to donate during the August 26 Blood Drive - and many more will have the opportunity to donate during the next Blood Drive in November said Employee Services’ Don Barth.

“The need for blood is always great,” he said. “I look forward to your participation in November.”

With most of the state’s more than two million school-aged children heading back to school this time of year, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) wants motorists to Take Care, Be Aware of the buses and children returning to the state’s roadways – especially during morning rush hour.

ODOT’s expert analysis of statewide traffic data shows that 1828 crashes on Ohio roadways last year involved schools buses, including nine fatalities.

In addition to school buses returning to the roads, more parents will be back in route to school. In Ohio, it’s estimated that only half of school-aged children ride a bus to school, but a growing number of students are often driven to school in a private vehicle.

Numbers from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration show that as much as 25 percent of typical morning rush hour traffic is school-related. That’s one out of every four cars on the road each weekday morning heading to school or day care.

A mom and a planner I’d like to remind drivers to be aware of bus riders, especially during the dark, morning hours - particularly those crossing traffic,” said Melinda Bartizal of District 12’s Planning Department. “It’s difficult to see children crossing the street and they rarely wear reflective materials.”

For the upcoming back to school season, ODOT will feature its Take Care, Be Aware safety message at several locations across the state, including some of the state’s 110 rest areas and travel information centers.

ODOT is also partnering with the nation’s largest retailer Walmart, which has posted the Take Care, Be Aware safety message at ten of its largest stores in Ohio and at its four Ohio distribution centers. Walmart’s truck drivers have been routinely recognized with a safest fleet award by the Ohio Trucking Association, a group of more than 1,100 trucking companies in the state.

In the Cleveland region, posters will appear at the Walmart at 3400 Steelyard Drive, Cleveland, OH 44109.

Safer routes to school lead to fewer accidents. Over the past two years, ODOT’s Safe Routes to School program has awarded nearly $8 million to communities across the state for school crossing signals, sidewalks, educational materials and school travel plans.

Safety is most important in designated school zones, where traffic speeds are reduced to protect all students arriving at school. However, school zones have been the site of more than 1300 crashes over the past three years. Two people have been killed in school zone accidents - one of them a crossing guard.

In all, more than 500 students and adults have been injured in accidents in school zones from 2005 through 2008.

For more information on how to keep children safe on their way to school, check out ODOT’s Safe Routes to School program online at www.dot.state.oh.us. The updated website offers safety messages for students and drivers, as well as information for local communities on receiving state grants.
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Numbers from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration show that as much as 25 percent of typical morning rush hour traffic is school-related. That’s one out of every four cars on the road each weekday morning. How does ODOT stop these crashes? As a mom and a planner I’d like to remind drivers to be aware of bus riders, especially during the dark, morning hours - particularly those crossing traffic,” said Melinda Bartizal of District 12’s Planning Department. “It’s difficult to see children crossing the street and they rarely wear reflective materials.”

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Thousands of Ohioans across the state have already proclaimed, “Ohio’s 3C is Me!” by logging on to 3CisME.ohio.gov - provides an overview of the plan, provides access to presentations and study documents, and invites comment through an online survey. Please note that Internet access is also available at public libraries.

Public meetings – in September, there will be public open-house meetings in each of the 3Cs. Each open house is located on a bus line and is accessible for people with disabilities. The meetings will be held from 4-7 p.m. at:

- Columbus – 4-7 p.m. Sept. 15, King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Ave., Columbus. Served by COTA routes 6, 16, 81.
- Cleveland – 4-7 p.m. September 16, Cleveland Airport Holiday Inn, 4181 W. 150th St., Cleveland. Served by RTA routes 66X (Red Line Rapid), 70, 78 and 809.
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People with special communication needs who are interested in attending the public meetings should contact Miranda Terrill at MurphyEpson at mterrill@murphyepson.com or (614) 221-2885 at least 48-hours in advance.

ORDC and ODOT will use information collected from public input and open-house meetings in each of the 3Cs. Each open house is located on a bus line and is accessible for people with disabilities. The meetings will be held from 4-7 p.m. at:

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ORDC and ODOT will use information collected from the public comments to finalize Ohio’s application for stimulus funding, which is due by October 2.

Communicating with the people of District 12

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