



# Opportunity Corridor

## Frequently Asked Questions

### From Sept. 2009 Public Meetings

*How will residents and businesses continue to be involved in the planning of the roadway?*

As part of the Opportunity Corridor project, The City of Cleveland and ODOT are working closely with a Steering Committee comprised of individuals representing neighborhood and business interests in the project area. We are also committed to providing meaningful opportunities for public involvement in the planning, design, and decision-making for the Opportunity Corridor project. We welcome comments on the project at any time and all comments received are reviewed and considered by the study team. Future public involvement opportunities will be announced through the mail, on the project website, and through other media as they are scheduled.

*Will the proposed roadway improvements serve as a cut-through for traffic trying to access University Circle and have a negative impact on the existing neighboring communities?*

The purpose of the Opportunity Corridor project is to address the transportation needs in the project study area, which include includes improving access and connectivity between the University Circle and the Interstate system. Another purpose is to provide the infrastructure to support the City's proposed economic development efforts and future vision for the community. As a result, we realize the importance of designing a roadway to fit within the community and are taking great care to avoid and minimize disruption to residents and stakeholders.

*How will this project spur economic development and provide jobs for area residents?*

The City of Cleveland and Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) are currently working together to develop an economic development plan for the project study area that supports *Connecting Cleveland 2020 Citywide Plan*. The proposed Opportunity Corridor would support these efforts through enhanced mobility, direct access to the freeways and the University Circle area, new frontage for potential development, improved visibility, and improved multi-modal access.

*Would the proposed roadway incorporate environmentally friendly "green" features and other aesthetic elements?*

The City is committed to developing a sustainable transportation system through the study area that is aesthetically pleasing, sensitive to the environment, and consistent with the needs of the community. The alternatives developed to date are still conceptual and do not fully illustrate these features. Sustainable design concepts could include elements to protect water quality and to reduce the amount of storm water runoff generated from the project. A number of aesthetic treatments are also under consideration. Although these items are still not fully developed, there will be an



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opportunity for the public to give feedback on possible design elements and themes currently being considered as part of the public meetings in October 2010 and beyond.

*What happens to residents whose properties might be required for the road improvements?*

From the start of the project, The City and ODOT have been and will continue to be focused on avoiding and minimizing impacts to residential and business properties as much as possible. However private property would be needed to construct the project. State and Federal policies are in-place to protect the interests and rights of home and business owners affected by the proposed project. More detail regarding these programs will be made available at the October 2010 public meetings and in future project communications. If questions arise after the October 2010 meetings, ODOT suggests that you contact their real estate staff person assigned to the project to discuss your questions. The local ODOT real estate contact is:

Mr. Dan Dougherty, P.E.      (216) 584-2130      [Dan.Dougherty@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Dan.Dougherty@dot.state.oh.us)

*Will the Opportunity Corridor Project help facilitate multi-modal travel?*

Yes. The proposed Opportunity Corridor would facilitate multi-modal travel by including both a sidewalk and a multi-purpose path. Wider outside vehicular lanes could also be provided for bicyclists sharing the roadway with cars, trucks, and buses. These facilities would provide enhanced pedestrian and bicycle access and connectivity to recreational areas within and adjacent to the project study area. Additionally, the proposed project would improve access and connectivity to existing bus and rail transit options and create opportunities for new bus service in the area.

*Are traffic impacts being taken into consideration when developing alternatives? How will local businesses access the Boulevard?*

Yes. Traffic analyses were completed and used to develop and refine the conceptual alternatives. Intersections were designed to operate at acceptable level of service. As the alternatives are further refined, the traffic operations of the proposed project will be reevaluated to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow within the project corridor.

The proposed Opportunity Corridor is not a freeway. It would be a city street that would have at-grade intersections with traffic signals and a landscaped median in the middle. Local businesses and residents would be able to access the proposed roadway at these signalized intersections, as well as at approved driveways and access points. The City of Cleveland and ODOT would coordinate to determine which local streets would be directly connected to the proposed roadway.