



I-75 Mill Creek Expressway Newsletter

February 2007 Issue 6

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), District 8, has scheduled a public meeting for the I-75 Mill Creek Expressway Study. The meeting will be held **Thursday, March 29, 2007** at the St. Bernard Municipal Building at 120 Washington Avenue, St. Bernard, OH 45217. The meeting will be held from **4pm to 8pm** and will be an "open house" style. The public may visit at any time during the meeting to view the exhibits and ask questions. No formal presentations will be made.

The purpose of this public meeting will be to show the changes in the alternatives from the September 2006 public meeting. On exhibit will be display boards with the proposed alignment/interchanges and the potential affects to ecological resources, history/architecture resources, parks and property impacts. Representatives from ODOT's Real Estate Office will be in attendance to answer questions regarding potential property impacts and the relocation process.

The displays will show the changes in response to over 150 comments received. The areas of most concern and their changes are briefly described as follows:

Northside

As a follow-up to the large number of comments received concerning Northside, ODOT District 8 and the project team coordinated with neighborhood leaders at meetings of the Northside Business Association on 10/2/06 and the Northside Community Council on 10/17/06. As a result of public input, ODOT agreed to consider improvements at the Colerain/Beekman interchange to offset the removed local access ramps to Northside. The project team will present displays showing the proposed improvements in the vicinity of the Northside neighborhood.

Colerain/Beekman Interchange

This interchange was temporarily removed from the Mill Creek Expressway study in 2006; however, it was re-inserted because of the local access changes at the I-75/I-74 interchange. As such, the Colerain/Beekman interchange will be upgraded to allow all directional movements. The project team will present displays and a computer simulation of how proposed interchange design works during the public meeting.

Ross Avenue Park (St. Bernard)

At the September public meeting, the project team displayed two options in the vicinity of the Ross Avenue Park. One alternative completely avoided the park facilities and substantially affected the City service facility and other businesses located between the existing highway and the railroad tracks. The other alternative shifted the highway into the park facilities and limited the impacts to the City service facility and other businesses. During the comment period following the public meeting, 20 citizens responded in favor of the park avoidance alternative while 1 citizen responded in favor of the City facility and businesses. Based upon the comments received the project will move forward with the park avoidance alternative.

Also on display for the first time will be the conceptual transit alignment alternatives. One of the stated goals of the Mill Creek Expressway project was to not preclude or prohibit a transit alignment in the future. It should be noted that there is currently NO FUNDING in place for such a project, but the project team has determined a conceptual transit alignment from approximately the existing transit tubes north of the Western Hills Viaduct along I-75 past the Paddock Interchange. Also, a second line would follow I-74 to the northeast in the vicinity of Cincinnati State and the Northside neighborhood. The project team will have exhibits showing the conceptual alignments and be able to answer any questions at the public meeting.