



Ohio Rail Development Commission

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Fellow Ohio Citizens:

Following eight months of meetings and presentations and speaking to hundreds of Ohioans throughout the state, I am pleased to provide the enclosed *Ohio Hub Public and Agency Involvement Report*. This report represents a milestone in Ohio's passenger rail development efforts and it confirms that the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) is on target with its current plan. The citizens have spoken, we took notes, and over and over again they said "Do this now; we can't afford to wait any longer". After three decades of rail planning in the State of Ohio, there is a clear sense of urgency that convinces me this plan will be the one that is built.

This is a call to action from our citizens and community leaders. We need to move the *Ohio Hub Freight and Passenger Plan* forward for the benefit of Ohio's economy and its mobility. As suggested by Mayor Beryl Rothschild, University Heights, "This is the answer for the rustbelt". Not only will the Ohio Hub increase transportation system capacity, but it can be a powerful economic development engine that will generate jobs and opportunities.

The public and agency involvement meetings would not have been possible without our local partners at Ohio's metropolitan planning organizations and the regional planning commissions. I would like to extend my gratitude and personally thank the Ohio Association of Regional Councils, the mayors, chamber of commerce representatives and many others who helped plan and orchestrate this tremendous public effort.

Thank you all for attending the meetings, providing your positive input and demonstrating support by writing letters and passing resolutions. As a result of your efforts, we are hopeful that ORDC will continue to have the resources needed to advance Ohio's passenger rail development efforts, while also improving the movement of freight that is so critical to Ohio's role in the global economy.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

James E. Seney
Executive Director

Building Markets, Linking Cities and Securing Ohio's Future