

# NEWS

## **OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Ohio Hub Gets Planning \$\$\$\$\$:** ***Funding Aimed At Detailed Economic Impact Study***

**(Columbus)** -- The advance of Ohio's regional passenger & freight rail plans can chalk up a "win" in the progress column, as the Ohio Rail Development Commission has secured a written commitment from ODOT for \$500,000 dollars in planning funds over the next 5 years.

ODOT Director Gordon Proctor proposed that ORDC receive \$100,000 per year for five years in federal planning dollars. These dollars would be matched by ORDC at a minimum of 20% up to a maximum of \$100,000. ORDC Executive Director Jim Seney has accepted the proposal, stating that "ODOT's support gives ORDC a consistent level of planning funds to work with and we are grateful to Director Proctor. A successful partnership with ODOT means ORDC can achieve its goals for the Ohio Hub."

This allows us to begin the much-needed, detailed economic impact study of the Ohio Hub Plan yet this year. This study is necessary to nail down what we believe to be very positive preliminary economic impact numbers in the initial Ohio Hub Study:

- 6,600 Construction Jobs
  - 6,000 Indirect Jobs
  - 1,500 permanent rail operating jobs
  - \$1-billion increase in property values
  - Household income increased by \$120-\$610
  - Annual tax revenues increased by \$28-million
- (Source: Transportation Economics Management Systems)

"Although these numbers are good," says Seney, "we need to specifically identify which segments of Ohio's economy will benefit from the development of high-speed passenger

rail service and increased freight rail capacity, and by how much. For instance, how much business will Ohio's steel, concrete, aggregates and heavy construction industries get from this project? What Ohio communities along the proposed routes will benefit from economic development and new jobs created around stations and in their community as a whole?"

The results of this study will help determine how we will move into the environmental impact phase for the Ohio Hub, where elements like routes, station stops and infrastructure needs will be determined. It is this phase that will get the Ohio Hub to a level where the federal government will consider it a funding-ready plan, and where we can identify and preserve critical rail infrastructure.

Advancing the Ohio Hub Plan to this stage will bring us nearer toward a day when the people of Ohio, and the goods they make and consume, will move faster and more efficiently by rail.

**Note: You can view either Executive Summary or the entire Ohio Hub Plan at the ORDC website: [www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/)**

*(The Ohio Rail Development Commission is an independent agency operating within the Ohio Department of Transportation. ORDC is responsible for economic development through the improvement and expansion of passenger and freight rail service, railroad grade crossing safety and rail travel & tourism issues. For more information about what ORDC does for Ohio, visit our website at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/> )*