



To: BCTID Board of Trustees  
From: Dan Corey, Director  
Date: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Re: Director's Report for June 2023

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Below are the Projects, Properties, and Operation updates. New information is shown in **bold**.

## 1. Millikin – I-75 Interchange

**Geometrics and Final Design** – A Teams Meeting with ODOT Central Office and District 8 to go over the Interchange Geometrics was held on 3/2/23. The Interchange Geometrics was submitted to ODOT on 3/7/23. **ODOT's review was completed the week of 4/10/23.** Interchange Justification Study (IJS) Addendum was approved by FHWA. Design Team is addressing ODOT's comments and moving toward approval of the geometrics and soon starting the next design phase of the Project.

**R/W Phase** – The R/W Phase is anticipated commencing in 2024 if the TRAC application is approved and therefore funding for the R/W Phase secured.

**TRAC Application** – On May 31<sup>st</sup> a TRAC Application was submitted asking for \$0.5M for Design Phase and \$14.0M for R/W Phase.

Partnership Meeting – Liberty Township, Butler County and the BCTID are discussing the local funding plan options that will need to be secured prior to applying for State and Federal Funds. This plan will ultimately be agreed to in the form of a three-party Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

## 2. North Hamilton Crossing (NHX)

Preliminary Engineering – A public involvement meeting was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the public comment period ended on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The Project Team felt that the public involvement effort was successful with 300+ participating in the in-person meeting and 880 participating in the virtual public meeting website. The website itself had 9,100 views. We had lots of public response with 35 comments from the in-person meeting and 11,176 online responses that included 611 comments/questions/suggestions. **A disposition of comments received through the public involvement period has been drafted and shared with the City/BCTID and ODOT. The DRAFT Feasibility Study was submitted to ODOT and is in review. It is anticipated that ODOT will finish their review mid-July. A 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Meeting is being planned for July 26<sup>th</sup> to provide an update**

**on the project and present the recommended Alternatives that will move into the Alternative Evaluation Review phase.**

**Funding** -. For the U.S. Department of Transportation application – Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainability Equity (RAISE) for 2023 was submitted on 2/27/23. The RAISE application for 2022 receive a “Highly Rated” designation from the Senior Review Team, however, no funds were awarded. The funding request was \$1,250,000. An application with the same type of request was submitted to Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) in December. **An OKI STBG/CMAQ Application was submitted for a roundabout on the western most portion of the Project at Northwest Washington Boulevard and North B Street. The application for the Federal Rail Administration’s funding program called Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) was unsuccessful.**

### **3. New Project**

**Symmes Road Rail Crossing Elimination Project** – At the September 2022 BCTID Board Meeting, Resolution 2022-12 was passed (see attached) which designed the Symmes Road Rail Crossing Elimination Project as a joint project between the City of Fairfield and BCTID. Furthermore, Resolution 2022-12 authorized the Director to submit an application for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program. It is with great pleasure that the City of Fairfield Press Release is attached announcing that we were awarded the funds. Congratulations to City of Fairfield and to the BCTID.

### **4. Operations**

**Operations Budget** – Attached is the Fund Summary, Payment Listing, and Receipt Listing for the month of May.

**Annual Audit** – The BCTID CY2022 Annual Audit has been issued with it being a “clean audit”.

**Next scheduled Board Meeting is July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 6/5/2023**

**City of Fairfield Announces Symmes Road Grade Separation Project**

FAIRFIELD, Ohio – The City of Fairfield has been awarded \$3 million to improve rail crossings at Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road.

The Federal Rail Administration (FRA) announced over \$570 M for 63 projects in 32 states under the Fiscal Year 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. The City of Fairfield project is one of two in Ohio. United States Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, had the following to say on the awards: “Given the scale of need and decades of underinvestment in America’s space, we won’t be able to reach every single crossing in the country or fix every issue, but this is a big, big piece of good news and it represents a great start.”

This project will support planning and project development activities at two adjacent crossings on CSX's Terminal Subdivision in Fairfield, OH: Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road. This project would complete development work for a proposed grade separation at the Symmes Road crossing and perform a feasibility study on the North Gilmore Road crossing for potential closure. Both crossings are skewed upon approach, limiting visibility for drivers, and average more than 40 trains a day. The Butler County Transportation Improvement District and City of Fairfield will contribute a 20 percent non-Federal match. \$240,000 of this project funding amount qualifies for the statutory set-aside for Planning projects.

This project offers the following benefits:

- **Safety:** The Symmes Road and North Gilmore Road crossings have seen a combined 16 crashes, eight fatalities and nine injuries according to the FRA Grade Crossing Inventory. Grade separation and closure of these crossings, respectively, will eliminate two conflict points while improving emergency response times both within the City and regionally.
- **Congestion:** Reduced congestion, delay, and emissions from over 40 train movements per day on roadways with annual average daily traffic of approximately 13,000 (Symmes Road) and 9,000 vehicles (North Gilmore Road). Trains frequently block one or both crossings for several hours at a time.
- **Rail Operations:** Improved reliability of rail movements along one of the most important freight corridors in the Midwest, connecting several major industrial cities along the I-75 highway corridor. Completion of this project will provide over 4.5 miles of track space without at-grade crossing interference north of the CSX Queensgate Yard, the fifth largest by volume in the CSX network.
- **Economic Development:** With more than 36,000 jobs within three miles of the Symmes Road crossing, the corridor provides critical access to the region’s workforce. Several industrial properties surrounding the Symmes Road crossing present new job attraction and retention opportunities, with some served directly by rail access.

In March of this year, Councilmember Dale Paullus, City Manager Scott Timmer, and Public Works Director Ben Mann went to Washington D.C. to meet with administration officials from the FRA and CSX Executives to discuss project specifics. In addition, they met with and provided information to officials from the offices of Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator JD Vance, and Congressman Warren Davidson to advocate for project support. The City also received letters from state legislators, county partners, and local businesses and organizations in support of this project. The City is appreciative of all support and looks forward to collaborating with stakeholders to execute the grant. CSX has been very supportive of this project and the City looks forward to our continued partnership with both CSX and the Butler County Transportation Improvement District as we move the project forward.

# RESOLUTION

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Resolution Number 2022-12

## BUTLER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**A resolution designating the Symmes Road Rail Crossing Elimination Project as a joint transportation improvement project with the City of Fairfield and authorizing USDOT Rail Crossing Elimination Program grant application**

**WHEREAS**, the BCTID is authorized by ORC Chapter 5540 (1) to finance, construct, maintain, repair, and operate street, highway, and other transportation projects (including, but not limited to, air and rail projects) and (2) to construct, reconstruct, improve, alter, and repair roads, highways, public places, buildings, and other infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, the projects undertaken by the BCTID pursuant to ORC Chapter 5540 are essential and will contribute to the improvement of the prosperity, health, safety, and welfare of the people of the County of Butler, Ohio (the “County”), including local political subdivisions located within the County and of the State, are essential governmental functions; and the exercise by the BCTID of the authority granted by ORC Chapter 5540 is necessary for the prosperity, health, safety, and welfare of the County and the State and their people, and is consistent with and will promote industry, commerce, distribution, and research activity in the County and the State;

**WHEREAS**, the BCTID consistent with its purpose and mission, which includes the development of its projects under ORC Chapter 5540 as established by its Board of Trustees, is assisting and cooperating to the greatest extent possible with various local project sponsors, including, but not limited to, the County, various local political subdivisions within the County, including, but not limited to, the cities of Hamilton and Fairfield, located in Butler County, Ohio, the townships of Fairfield, Liberty and West Chester, and the Office of the Butler County Engineer (the “BCEO”), and coordinating as appropriate with the Ohio Department of Transportation (“ODOT”) and the Ohio Indiana Kentucky Regional Council of Governments (“OKI”), in the development of the specific transportation improvement projects, and the related financial strategy for the BCTID’s transportation improvement project program within the County, and various local political subdivisions within the County, which it believes is all consistent and compatible with the transportation improvements and related economic development initiatives within the County, in general;

**WHEREAS**, the BCTID, in coordination and cooperation with the City of Fairfield (the “City”), is considering the study, development, management and/or construction of certain roadway improvements in the City: to wit: elimination of an at-grade rail crossing on Symmes Road between State Route 4 and the State Route 4 Bypass, which is an important safety and traffic congestion project, and as further described, designed and/or set forth in plans and documents on file with the City and the BCTID (further referred to as the “*Symmes Road Rail Crossing Elimination Project*” or the “Project”);

**WHEREAS**, Symmes Road is a vital east-west thoroughfare in the County and makes a critical connection between State Route 4 in the Cities of Fairfield and Hamilton with Interstate 75;

**WHEREAS**, moreover, Symmes Road carries in excess of 12,000 vehicles per day and serves numerous large and small businesses, and there are currently millions of square feet of Class A logistics and distribution centers under construction on both sides of this at-grade crossing, with the potential for millions more being developed/redeveloped in the adjacent areas;

**WHEREAS**, the railroad is a major corridor used by CSX, Norfolk Southern, and Amtrak with approximately 35-40 trains per day at the crossing. The frequency of stopped trains blocking this and other nearby at-grade crossings has been increasing in recent years. This is leading to dangerous increases to emergency vehicle response times, congestion, and chaotic/confusing driving conditions on a local roadway network that was not designed to handle the rerouting of traffic and large trucks;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program (the “RCE” Program”) and is accepting grant application for funding eligible projects that will help deliver corridor-wide safety and mobility solutions related to grade crossings and focuses on funding projects, including planning projects, that will result in the elimination or closure of existing at-grade crossings as further set forth in the NOFO;

**WHEREAS**, the BCTID is specifically authorized by ORC § 5540.03(A)(10) to receive and accept loans and grants for or in aid of the construction, maintenance, or repair of any project from the federal or any state or local government and, pursuant to related provisions of ORC Chapter 5540, improve, design, finance and construct transportation improvement projects, such as the Project, in coordination and cooperation with the City and other appropriate local project sponsors, including appropriate private sector groups; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the BCTID Board of Trustees (the “Board”) that the Symmes Road Rail Crossing Elimination Project and related improvements, as further described, designed and/or set forth in plans and documents on file with the BCTID and the City, is hereby designated as a joint transportation improvement project of the BCTID with the City, pursuant to ORC§5540.03(A)(4) and the Project, is hereby added to and made part of the BCTID program of projects, to be further studied, developed, implemented and/or constructed, to such extent as found to be feasible or appropriate as determined by the BCTID, in collaboration with the City, all pursuant to and in accordance with ORC Chapter 5540 as a BCTID project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Board that the BCTID Director is authorized to make application in collaboration with the City for RCE Program grant funding in such amounts as determined practical and feasible by the BCTID Director, in further consultation

and collaboration with the City, and that the taking of any such action and the execution and delivery or acceptance of any such documents or instruments by the BCTID Director, shall be conclusive evidence of this Board's determination that such actions are necessary in order for the BCTID to carry out the purposes of this resolution and of the authorization thereof by this Board.

It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Board of Trustees of the BCTID concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code

Adopted the 12th day of September 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Trustee, Butler County Transportation Improvement District

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary / Treasurer

Motion to pass resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Second by \_\_\_\_\_

BUTLER COUNTY TID, BUTLER COUNTY  
**Fund Summary**  
 May 2023

6/7/2023 12:51:01 PM  
 UAN v2023.2

Fund #	Fund Name	Starting Fund Balance	Month To Date Revenue	Year To Date Revenue	Month To Date Expenditures	Year To Date Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance	Current Reserve for Encumbrance	Unencumbered Fund Balance
1000	General	\$4,407,268.45	\$19,119.81	\$77,342.20	\$33,297.83	\$101,513.09	\$4,393,090.43	\$21,180.35	\$4,371,910.08
4901	Liberty Interchange	\$15.68	\$1,391,408.48	\$1,391,424.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,391,424.16	\$0.00	\$1,391,424.16
4902	State Route 4 Bypass	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4903	South Hamilton Crossing	\$83,625.21	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$83,625.21	\$0.00	\$83,625.21
4904	Salzman Road	\$39,434.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,434.43	\$0.00	\$39,434.43
4905	Gilmore Road	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4906	North Hamilton Crossing	\$435,252.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$329,489.24	\$390,327.59	\$105,763.47	\$158,589.53	(\$52,826.06)
4907	Millikin Interchange	\$1,626,714.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108,632.95	\$274,371.60	\$1,518,081.79	\$1,472,135.51	\$45,946.28
Report Total:		\$6,592,311.22	\$1,410,528.29	\$1,468,766.36	\$471,420.02	\$766,212.28	\$7,531,419.49	\$1,651,905.39	\$5,879,514.10

Last reconciled to bank: 05/31/2023 – Total other adjusting factors: \$0.00

Payment Listing

May 2023

Payment Advice #	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Vendor / Payee	Amount	Status
21-2023	05/01/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Hurst, Kelly & Company, LLC	\$700.00	C
22-2023	05/01/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Burgess & Niple	\$106,843.08	C
23-2023	05/01/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Bayer & Becker, Inc.	\$1,750.00	C
24-2023	05/01/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Crystal Springs	\$337.08	C
25-2023	05/02/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Hurst, Kelly & Company, LLC	\$300.00	C
26-2023	05/08/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter	\$30,613.16	C
27-2023	05/08/2023	05/08/2023	CH	Modern Office Methods	\$728.48	C
28-2023	05/04/2023	06/01/2023	CH	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	\$318,001.01	O
29-2023	05/25/2023	06/01/2023	CH	Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter	\$1,755.00	O
30-2023	05/30/2023	06/01/2023	CH	Hurst, Kelly & Company, LLC	\$300.00	O
31-2023	05/31/2023	06/01/2023	CH	RedTree Investment Group	\$244.20	C
32-2023	05/31/2023	06/01/2023	CH	Horizon Payroll Solutions	\$38.27	C
33-2023	05/31/2023	06/01/2023	CH	Daniel J. Corey	\$9,805.27	C
6011	05/08/2023	05/08/2023	AW	Butler County Board of County Commissioner:	\$4.47	C
Total Payments:					\$471,420.02	
Total Conversion Vouchers:					\$0.00	
Total Less Conversion Vouchers:					\$471,420.02	

Type: AM - Accounting Manual Warrant, AW - Accounting Warrant, IM - Investment Manual Warrant, IW - Investment Warrant, PM - Payroll Manual Warrant, PR - Payroll Warrant, RW - Reduction of Receipt Warrant, SW - Skipped Warrant, WH - Withholding Warrant, WM - Withholding Manual, WS - Special Warrant, CH - Electronic Payment Advice, IL - Investment Loss, EP - Payroll EFT Voucher, CV - Payroll Conversion Voucher, SV - Payroll Special Voucher, EW - Withholding Voucher, POS ADJ - Positive Adjustment, NEG ADJ - Negative Adjustment, POS REAL - Positive Reallocation, NEG REAL - Negative Reallocation

Status: O - Outstanding, C - Cleared, V - Voided, B - Batch

\* Asterisked amounts are not included in report totals. These transactions occurred outside the reported date range but are listed for reference.



Receipt Listing

May 2023

Receipt Number	Post Date	Transaction Date	Type	Deposit Ticket	Source	Amount	Status
17-2023	05/16/2023	05/17/2023	INT		PRIMARY	\$1,455.21	C
18-2023	05/31/2023	06/01/2023	INT		RedTree	\$9,505.54	C
19-2023	05/31/2023	06/01/2023	INT		STAR Oh	\$8,159.06	C
20-2023	05/12/2023	06/06/2023	STD		Liberty Township	\$1,389,341.59	C
21-2023	05/31/2023	06/06/2023	INT		BoNY Mell.	\$31.35	C
22-2023	05/31/2023	06/07/2023	INT		BoNY Mell.	\$2,035.54	C
Report Total:						<u>\$1,410,528.29</u>	

Type: STD - Standard Receipt, INT - Interest Receipt, MEMO - Memo Receipt, GAIN - Capital Gain, POS ADJ - Positive Adjustment, NEG ADJ - Negative Adjustment, POS REAL - Positive Reallocation, NEG REAL - Negative Reallocation

Status: O - Outstanding, C - Cleared, V - Voided, B - Batch

\* Asterisked amounts are not included in report totals. These transactions occurred outside the reported date range but are listed for reference.