

# I-71/SR 665 INTERCHANGE

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## WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

The area surrounding the I-71/SR665 interchange in Grove City, Ohio serves as key interface between the interstate system and the regional development opportunities in southern Franklin County. SR665 is home of the second largest FedEx Ground Facility in the United States, provides access to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), supports numerous commercial and industrial operations, and serves as an interstate access corridor for the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility. Currently, businesses within the area account for over 2,600 jobs.

Grove City has made substantial investments to the area around the interchange to facilitate this project, and economic development.



## CHALLENGES

The final challenge facing the proposed interchange project is to formalize the financial commitments secured for the project and entering into a cooperative agreement between the local and State agencies. Until the financial commitments from the various funding agencies is authorized, there remains a funding gap to

ensure the allocation of monies to carry the project through land acquisition and construction. The longer it takes to fulfill the funding requirements of this project, the more the "in place" funding depreciates, which affects the ability to have this project fully funded.

## WHAT IS CENTRAL OHIO DOING ABOUT IT?

This project was identified by MORPC's Rickenbacker Infrastructure Coordinating Committee as a high priority project for the area. Central Ohio's public and private sectors have partnered in addressing critical Rickenbacker-area infrastructure

needs. Currently, innovative solutions are being pursued for financing and design. Grove City will leverage funding obtained from Federal appropriations, ODOT, MORPC, OPWC and local funding from Grove City.

### CURRENT INTERCHANGE

The current infrastructure, originally constructed in 1959 as a rural interchange, is functionally obsolete and offers a level of service of "F."

### GROVE CITY INVESTMENT

The City of Grove City has invested in improvements adjacent to the interchange to support the design and operation of the new facility. These improvements include the widening of SR665 east of the bridge from a rural 2-lane road to a 5-lane arterial.

### PROPOSED INTERCHANGE

A Single Point Urban Interchange will replace the narrow diamond configuration currently in place. SR665 will be widened as it passes over I-71 to accommodate five through lanes and turn lanes. A single signalized intersection will control all traffic through the interchange.

