

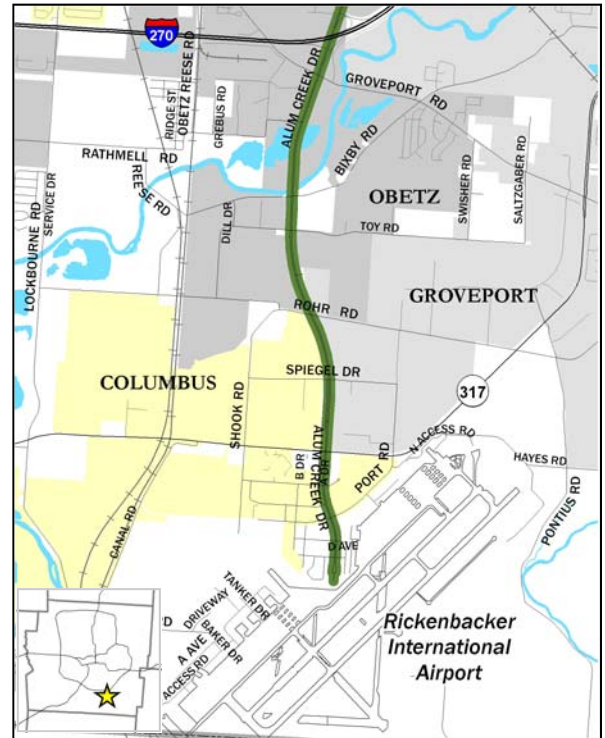
ALUM CREEK CORRIDOR (RICKENBACKER)

Updated: January 2010

WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

The section of Alum Creek Drive that directly serves the Rickenbacker area stretches from the Rickenbacker Airport to I-270. Alum Creek Drive currently serves as the only direct connection between the Rickenbacker area and the Interstate Highway System. In fact, Alum Creek Drive is recognized by the National Highway System (NHS) as an Intermodal Connector.

Intermodal Connectors are the last mile in the trip between different transportation modes. Despite their importance, they are usually local or county streets and generally have lower design standards than mainline NHS routes, which are primarily interstates and highways.



FUNDING

A partnership was struck among the Columbus Region Logistics Council, federal, state, local governments, and MORPC to successfully support the Franklin County Engineer's Office's effort to secure Ohio Bipartisan Job Stimulus Logistics and Distribution program funding. This investment matched with funding from the partners have made this project a reality.

CHALLENGES

Physical challenges face Alum Creek Drive. The I-270/Alum Creek Drive interchange was built as a rural interchange, however now it must function as an urban interchange. A primary difference between a rural and urban interchange is how appropriately truck traffic is handled. For example, the current exit lengths often

lead to backups on I-270 and Alum Creek. More pressing than the geometric problems at the interchange, the Groveport Rd/Alum Creek Drive intersection is located several hundred feet south of the I-270 interchange and complicates movements even further.

WHAT IS CENTRAL OHIO DOING ABOUT IT?

Central Ohio's public and private sectors have partnered in addressing critical infrastructure needs in the Rickenbacker area. In 2008, the partners worked to collapse the project schedule to be more responsive to the areas needs.

Improvements to Alum Creek Drive/ Groveport Road intersection will begin in 2010. Overcoming this challenge is a testament to the flexibility and responsiveness of the region to act quickly to capture unique opportunities.