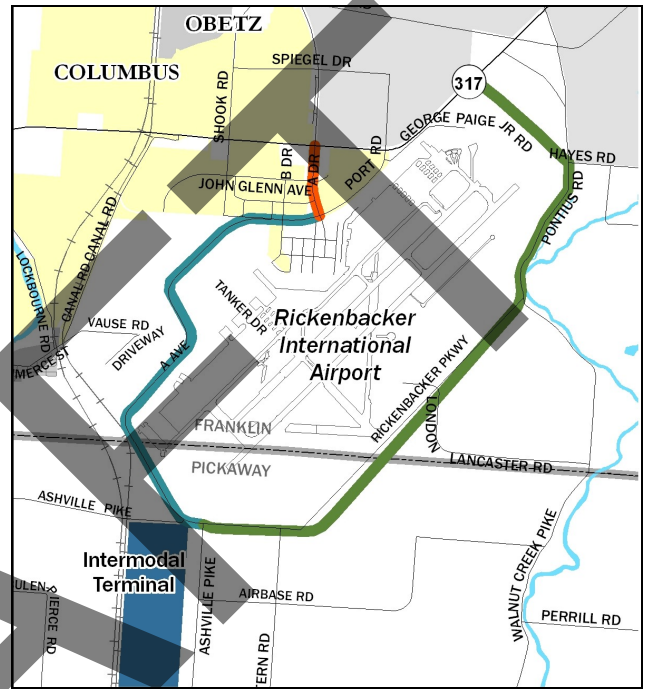


RICKENBACKER PARKWAY

Updated: June 23, 2011

WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Rickenbacker Parkway will provide greater connectivity between the Rickenbacker area and two critical corridors that link Rickenbacker to I-270: Alum Creek and SR 317. The parkway will encircle the airport, connecting the southern Rickenbacker area to the existing transportation network, and open the area for economic development. For example, this road provides a critical access point for the Norfolk Southern's Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility. This will become increasingly important as freight volumes continue to increase.



PRELIMINARY SEGMENT

The first phase of the four-lane facility was constructed in 2007. This segment between Alum Creek Drive and Ashville Pike was built with the intention of becoming a four-lane divided facility.

FOUR-LANE FACILITY

The second phase of construction began in 2010. This phase will expand the roadway into a four-lane facility that includes a median strip, and a shared-use path.

COMPLETING THE LOOP

The third phase, completing the loop around the airport to SR 317, is currently being studied by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. However, funding is currently unavailable to construct the project. Additional work will also be necessary to upgrade Alum Creek Drive between the Parkway and State Route 317.

CHALLENGES

Currently, two lanes of the four-lane divided facility have been constructed between Alum Creek Drive and Ashville Pike. The remaining two lanes for the segment are under construction using funding committed from the Federal Stimulus program, MORPC, ODOT, and local sources. The remaining portion

between Ashville Pike and SR 317 is being studied by the CRAA. However, the construction of the remaining portion has yet to be funded. As transportation funding becomes more limited, projects that are essential for economic development face increasing competition for available funding.

WHAT IS CENTRAL OHIO DOING ABOUT IT?

Central Ohio's public and private sectors formed a partnership to bring together each other's respective strengths to better pursue funding opportunities and to pursue innovative financing and project development methods.

MORPC is working with its partners to pursue these options and ensure that projects that are essential to economic develop, like the Rickenbacker Parkway, do not fall by the wayside.