

OHIO'S COLUMBUS - PITTSBURGH CORRIDOR STEERING COMMITTEE

Purpose and Background

Public and private representatives from Coshocton, Licking, Harrison, Jefferson, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties have formed an organizational structure, the Ohio Columbus - Pittsburgh Steering Committee, for purposes of planning, advocating, and coordinating efforts to complete 5 key major improvement projects on sections of Ohio 16, Ohio 250, and U.S. 22 between Columbus and the the Ohio/West Virginia/Pennsylvania border.

Steering Committee Composition

The steering committee shall consist of two voting members from each participating county who shall be appointed by the respective county commission. Steering committee members shall be representative of one of the following sectors: county government, economic development, transportation, or private enterprise. Steering committee members shall serve four (4) year terms with no term limits in place. Additionally, the steering committee shall nominate three (3) representatives of the private sector by a majority vote which shall also serve four (4) year terms with no term limits in place. After the entire steering committee is in place, two co-chairs of different political party affiliations (Republican, Democrat or Independent) shall be nominated and voted upon by the steering committee for one (1) year terms with no more than three (3) successive years of service as co-chairs.

Attendance is required. Unexcused absences are referred to the appointing authority after the third consecutive unexcused absence for a successor to be named.

Membership

Any individual from the private or public sector is encouraged to join the organization as a participating member. The annual membership fee is \$50.00 with funds to be used specifically for meeting location rental fees, lobbying or marketing efforts, publishing of maps or other necessary documents related specifically to the corridor or other reasonable costs agreed upon by the steering committee.

Local units of government are encouraged to join. The \$50.00 annual fee is applied to offices of local government but not to each employee or representative of local government (i.e. a county commission may join for \$50.00 and that entitles all three elected county commissioners to be a member but does not include other county office holders which would need to join independently. The same is held for city, village, and township government).

State and federal legislators, and their respective staffs, and other pertinent state or federal officials are exempt. The steering committee reserves the right to exempt other individuals or organizations from the annual membership fee.

Membership dues are due by January 1 of each year beginning January 1, 2008.

Meetings

The steering committee shall meet quarterly in January, April, July, and October of each year. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the request of the co-chairs. The steering committee will meet at a central location except for twice a year when it may move the meetings to different locations along the corridor.

As a general rule, all state and federal legislators along the corridor are invited to the meetings as is the Governor's Office, Ohio Department of Transportation, the appropriate metropolitan planning organizations, the Ohio Mid-East Governments Association, the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance and the media from each participating county.

An annual meeting shall be held each fall with the intent to attract the governor, director of transportation, and/or a federal legislator for an update on each project.

Commitment

Similar to the U.S. 35 Steering Committee, each county is requested to remain an active partner of this organization until ALL sections of the corridor in Ohio are completed or until the final phase of the final connection is under construction. Resolutions in support of this effort shall be requested from each board of county commissioners and city/village government along the corridor.