



Dave Gossett

SHOWING THE WAY – Tony Guida of the Columbus-Pittsburgh Corridor Steering Committee shows the Steubenville Kiwanis members the proposed route for a new highway system from Columbus through the local area and into downtown Pittsburgh.

Guida optimistic about new highway system

By **DAVE GOSSETT**
Staff writer

3-12-08

STEUBENVILLE — Realtor Anthony Guida Tuesday asked the Steubenville Kiwanis to “get as excited as we are about the chance to see a 200-mile highway built from Columbus to Pittsburgh.”

Guida told the Kiwanis members Tuesday during their meeting at the YWCA that the state is now moving ahead with a feasibility and funding study that had been placed on hold last year.

“The Ohio Department of Transportation knows there is a problem with Interstate 70. ODOT is now talking about expanding the highway to create a truck lane on each side. But we have told them the Columbus to Pittsburgh corridor is the answer to the traffic problems,” said Guida.

He said he “didn’t know where to start in talking about the proposed highway corridor. The idea originally started in the 1980s and the Hanna Coal Co. was ready to donate the land for the interchanges but the project didn’t get off the ground.”

“Then Rick Platt came to town as the Progress Alliance director and Mayor Domenick Mucci threw in his support, and we got serious about this. We were lined up last July to announce the feasibility study when the state of Ohio put us on hold,” recalled Guida. “Our committee has really gotten aggressive, bringing in legislators, and we will see the feasibility study started within the next couple of months. That study will take from a year to 18 months to complete but it is the next

See **HIGHWAY** Page 4B ⇨

Highway 3-10-08

step in the process,” stated Guida.

“I am asking you today to personally contact federal and state legislators to encourage their support for this highway,” he said. “We are a group trying to attract economic development to our area and this highway would be a major boost for future development. Why do you think St. Clairsville has so much more development than Steubenville? They have the interstate highway there,” noted Guida.

“We know U.S. Route 250 is

a dangerous highway. This new highway would ease some of the traffic on that road and it would be a safer highway,” said Guida.

“We’re not going to give up on this project. This would be a straight shot from Columbus to Pittsburgh and would also be a very scenic route,” said Guida. “The state has mentioned the possibility of making it a toll road once it is completed and that’s OK. Or if federal or state funding is not available for the construction, our committee needs to be ready to look for private fund-

ing,” he continued.

He noted the proposed corridor highway link is currently a series of separate projects on separate highways.

“The proposed corridor would start at New Albany, north of Columbus. There is a four-lane highway from New Albany to Coshocton where U.S. Route 36 runs to U.S. Route 250 and through the Tappan Lake area before joining U.S. Route 22 at Cadiz. We need about 28 miles of four-lane highway to be completed in order to have four lanes from north of Columbus to

Continued from Page 1B

downtown Pittsburgh,” explained Guida. “We will not give up,” he repeated, “but we need everyone to work with us and push for the completion of this super highway.”

Guida said he is estimating construction of the proposed highway system, “could take between 10 to 12 years. Which is a pretty good schedule considering all the issues involved.”

(Gossett can be contacted at dgossett@heraldstaronline.com.)