



# Ohio Rail Development Commission

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JANUARY 12, 2006

### SAFETY

- Matt Dietrich and ODOT Accounting are finishing up their cost review of gate and light contracts. Matt's project to get at the detailed costs and overhead charges contained in continuing contracts is having interesting results. We will be modifying what we are reimbursing for as approved contracts expire and new projects are developed.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ODOT and the Columbus Port Authority are discussing the management of federal funds for the Rickenbacker project. ORDC would be in a position to assume this role as we deal with federal funds and private sector partners on a daily basis.
- We are seeing more requests for non-highway transportation projects, bulk loading facilities, intermodal facilities and transload facilities. The Marion Intermodal Center is an example of this trend. All these types of transportation projects have significant economic impact and will prove beneficial to the respective local economies and therefore the state.
- Rail infrastructure continues to be a problem looming on the near horizon. Bridges, tunnels, light track replacement, capacity and bottle neck removal are growing problems that we do not have the resources to deal with. I am working on a strategy.
- I survived an all day workshop session with our seven economists; all PhDs and all excited about the economic impact study. We reviewed various modeling processes and achieved agreement on procedures and communication between the two groups. I am even getting excited about this study. I would really like to get at the environmental for the Ohio Hub and identify the economic cost of the lack of capacity and bottlenecks in the system right now. I'll bet it's extraordinary.

### OUTREACH

- Meetings have taken place and are coming up concerning photo enforcement. Our position seems valid and acceptable.
- One-on-one meetings about the Ohio Hub and freight capacity issues continued as much as possible during the holiday season. 2006 looks like a good year for us!