

Future High Growth Areas

Western Licking County-Etna Parkway Extension Etna/Pataskala

An extension of Etna Parkway from US 40 to SR 16 in Etna Township and the City of Pataskala is in the development phase. An Ohio Department of Development Job Ready Site (JRS) grant was awarded that will help fund the roadway. With the completion of the roadway nearly 1500 acres will be 'shovel ready' with excellent transportation infrastructure and proximity to IR 70.

ProLogis is an excellent example of manufacturing warehouse distribution investing in Licking County. ProLogis is an international manufacturing warehouse developer who has committed to the Etna and Pataskala Job Ready Site area. In the Etna Industrial Park alone ProLogis committed to a minimum of 5 buildings with total minimum full time employment of 250. As of December 31, 2007, ProLogis is finishing up its third building and has tenants with 246 full time employees, 205 part time employees and a payroll of over \$6 million. Etna Township has over 1000 additional acres zoned light manufacturing. ProLogis is planning an additional investment of \$43 million real property, \$3.5 million machinery and equipment, and \$12 million inventory. The City of Pataskala has over 1200 acres zoned planned manufacturing and ProLogis is investing in 525 of the Job Ready Site acreage. Proposals are being negotiated at the present time.

Thornwood Drive Corridor Heath/Newark/Port Authority

A long conceived project to connect SR 16 and IR 70 is advancing. Industrial development is expected to increase in this area as an investment for a new connector. The Port Authority, Mid Ohio Development, and NOI Anderson Layman are committed to industrial development of the 600 acres zoned manufacturing warehouse over the next ten to fifteen years.

SR 161/37/16 Corridor from Columbus thru Licking County

This project, expected to be completed in 2009, will create a four lane divided highway through Licking County to Columbus. Completion of this project will create development pressures along the entire corridors. Demand for central water and sewer will grow, especially for development centered at the interchanges. Updated Future Land Use plans and zoning are imperative to manage the expected growth.

Looking into the future, a handful of growth opportunities could position Central Ohio and Licking County to reinvigorate the above existing sectors.. Some of these growth areas most likely to thrive in Central Ohio and Licking County are specialized design services, electronic and precision equipment repair and maintenance and tourism and arts. The Deloitte study also identified the following emerging technology areas: polymers, particularly in the areas of bio/products, conductive, and polymer liquid crystal displays. Medical equipment and its related research could also prosper because of their close proximity to Ohio State and Battelle.

Additionally the emerging areas of nano-materials and the intersection of polymer technology and nano-technology could build upon the regions strength in advanced materials. Finally, Central Ohio and Licking County should also prosper in the area of information technology, particularly for the medical industry, financial service industry, and the security database industries.