

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**I-71 & WESTERN ROW ROAD INTERCHANGE RECEIVES FUNDING –  
PROJECT IS NOW FULLY-FUNDED FOR CONSTRUCTION, WHICH WILL BEGIN IN 2017  
\$16.4 million award will boost access to growing regional economic development hub  
in City of Mason**

**WARREN COUNTY, OH, MARCH 3, 2015** - The Warren County Transportation Improvement District (WCTID) today announced that with the award last week by the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC), the WCTID and its partner team have now secured all funding necessary to complete the improvements planned for the I-71 Interchange at Western Row Road.

“This is a huge win for our region,” said Warren County Engineer Neil Tunison. “Western Row Road is a key access point along the I-71 Corridor, attracting a growing number of businesses and residents. This work will improve safety, reduce congestion, and expand access to the many business and recreational destinations in the area. The improvements at the Western Row Interchange at I-71 are part of an integrated program, along with the work at the I-71 & Fields-Ertel Interchange, that are expected to significantly relieve congestion for people who travel along I-71 in the northern Hamilton and Warren County area.”

The \$16.4 million dollar award by TRAC will fund construction of the interchange improvements that will be completed in two phases:

- Phase 1, the Columbia Road Relocation, will allow travelers to move more easily through the area by improving turn lanes and extending the distance between the I-71 off ramp intersection and Columbia Road.
- Phase 2, also known as the I-71 Interchange Modifications, will provide full access to and from I-71 in the Western Row area by adding a new exit ramp from southbound I-71 to Innovation Way, as well as the addition of two northbound I-71 on-ramps from Western Row Road.

Gary Middleton, Interim Deputy Director for ODOT’s regional office underscored the significance of this project that will improve the interstate network system in southwest Ohio. “The Western Row Interchange at I-71 is a very important link in our interstate system in southwest Ohio,” said Middleton. “It is a critical hub for economic activity and job growth, and is also a central recreational destination for families. ODOT is pleased to partner with the Warren County TID and its project team to implement these changes that will improve travel and safety for everyone who drives through this area.”

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“This is an historic day,” said David F. Nichols, Mayor of the City of Mason, who is a project partner with the Warren County TID. “This is a tremendous accomplishment for our area, one that speaks very clearly to the quality of the work we are doing in order to support the rapidly-growing economic development hub along Innovation Way and I-71 in the City of Mason. This project underscores our commitment to providing the infrastructure that supports a thriving business environment.”

“We are extremely grateful to our business partners who have given commitment and voice to the need for improved access at Western Row and to the benefit this project will bring to their business development opportunities,” continued Mayor Nichols.

An additional project – improvements to Kings Island Drive – is being managed by the City of Mason and is scheduled to begin soon. This project will widen Kings Island Drive to better support incoming traffic off of I-71. Funding has already been secured for the Kings Island Drive Improvements, and construction will start in the spring of this year.

All three projects will support the City of Mason’s growing economy. The City has seen more than \$140 million in investment in the past six years. The most recent announcements in the Western Row area, both of which are currently under construction, include the future location of the international headquarters of the prominent medical device company, Atricure, as well as the location of the German-based global automation technology company, Festo.

#### ***About the Western Row Area Improvements***

*Located in Mason, Ohio, the Western Row Road/I-71 interchange is a key access point along the I-71 business corridor. This popular destination for recreation and business is an important hub for economic development and job creation. An increasing number of businesses and residents are calling the Western Row Road area home.*

*A regional partnership that includes the Warren County Transportation Improvement District, the Warren County Engineer’s Office, the City of Mason, the Ohio Department of Transportation, Deerfield Township, and Warren County is working together to plan and implement transportation improvements to accommodate Western Row Road’s growing development. The Western Row Road improvement projects will increase mobility, improve safety and expand access to business and recreational destinations in the area. This initiative will further a thriving, inspired community.*

*Detailed project information can be found at [ImagineWesternRow.com](http://ImagineWesternRow.com).*

#### ***About the Warren County Transportation Improvement District***

*The Warren County Transportation Improvement District (WCTID) works across geographic and political lines to improve the quality of life for Warren County residents by stimulating economic development through regional transportation improvements. The WCTID cuts through red tape so projects are completed on time and on budget (in fact, often ahead of time and under budget). The WCTID partners with other county, state and federal jurisdictions to fund transportation improvements, allowing private investment to be leveraged to complete projects. All projects completed and supported by the WCTID support economic growth and regional stability.*

*More information about the WCTID and its project work can be found at [WCTID.us](http://WCTID.us).*

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