



## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2013



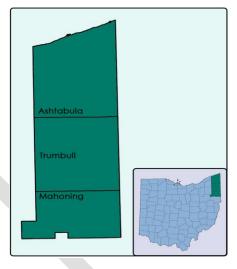
John Getchey, P.E., Executive Director Rachel McCartney, Program Manager, Community Development <u>www.eastgatecog.org</u> This report was financed by the Economic Development Administration and the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments



## ORGANIZING AND STAFFING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### ORGANIZATION

The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments serves as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Eastgate also has contracted with Ashtabula County, Ohio for participation in certain programs administered by Eastgate, including, but not limited to, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) program. Overall, the agency is responsible for developing and updating plans for air quality compliance, economic development, highways, transit, and water quality management. Eastgate processes applications for local governments for state and federal funds for a wide variety of infrastructure development, environmental, and transportation projects. Eastgate serves as the local clearinghouse and provides the intergovernmental review for all locally initiated state and federal grant applications.



#### The General Policy Board

As a council of governments, organized under Section 167.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, the General Policy Board (GPB) is made up of local elected and appointed officials from Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, plus representatives from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Eastgate Citizen's Advisory Board.

All official actions, including the adoption of plans, of the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments are enacted by the General Policy Board. A list of General Policy Board members is attached (see *Appendix 1*)

The Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of local planning, transit, and engineering officials from each member entity. It currently consists of voting members representing the broad spectrum of transportation, development and environmental activities undertaken by Eastgate. The Technical Advisory Committee was established to advise the General Policy Board on technical matters. A list of members is attached on *Appendix 2*.

The Citizens Advisory Board

A Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) was established to ensure the input of a broad representation of community interest for Eastgate project development and policy formulation. The Citizen's Advisory Board provides citizen input on Eastgate policies and practices. A list of members is attached on *Appendix 3*.

#### AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is under the general direction of the executive director who reports to the Eastgate General Policy Board. The major operating divisions within the agency are transportation planning, transit planning, environmental planning and economic development planning. The Director of Economic Development's responsibilities are to work with economic development professionals in the community to plan and implement new economic initiatives and to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This is a continuing process of developing and refining goals, objectives and strategies, seeking out projects which will further EDA's overall investment priorities.

This CEDS document is made readily accessible to the public and regional stakeholders. It is available on Eastgate's website and a hard copy will be made available upon request. A draft was made available for public comment for 30 days prior to submission to the EDA for final review.

There are a number of organizations that address the broad range of issues associated with economic development in the region. Many representatives of these organizations sit on multiple boards and committees with one another, all in cooperation towards the goal of a strong, sustainable economy in the region. Many of the organizations in the region are listed below:

Ashtabula Growth Partnership Conneaut Port Authority Ashtabula County Port Authority Ashtabula City Port Authority Ashtabula 503 Corporation Western Reserve port Authority Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation Warren Redevelopment and Planning CDC **Trumbull County Planning Commission Trumbull County CIC** Tech Belt Energy and Innovation Center City of Youngstown Economic Development Youngstown CIC Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber Youngstown State University Small Business Development Center and the Resource Foundation Workforce Investment Boards Mahoning Valley Manufactures Collation Team NEO MAGNET (Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network) NORTECH (North East Ohio Regional Non-Profit Technology -based Economic Development) NEOTECH (North East Ohio Trade and Economic Consortium)

#### Economic Development Committee

**Coordinator: Rachel McCartney, Community Development Program Manager** The Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC) was formed specifically for the CEDS planning process. This broad based committee comes from across the threecounty region and represents government, private sector, nonprofit corporations, and higher education. This committee has been actively involved in all aspects of the planning process, including visioning, issues, goals and objectives, strategies, and the identification of priority projects. Those listed below which have a check in the box in the column on the right have voting privileges, but must take into consideration the consensus of the entire committee.

Name	Public/ Private	Position	Voting
Bert Cene	PUBLIC	Director, Mahoning-Columbiana Training Association	~
Rose Ann DeLeon	PUBLIC	Executive Director, Western Reserve Port Authority	~
David Turner	PRIVATE	First Energy, Area Manager	✓
T. Sharon Woodberry	PUBLIC	Director, Youngstown Economic Development Department	
Michael Conway	PRIVATE	Executive Director, Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation	
Mark Zigmont	PUBLIC	Economic Development Coordinator, Trumbull County Planning Commission	
Bob Cene, Jr.	PRIVATE	AstroShapes, Inc.	✓
Mike Garvey	PRIVATE	President, M7 Technologies	~
Brian Anderson	PUBLIC	Director, Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County	
Julie M. Smith	PRIVATE	President, VISTA AST	
Michael Keys	PUBLIC	Director, Warren Community Development Agency	
Joseph Mayernick	PRIVATE	Hermitage Capital Partners, LLC	✓
Thomas Presby	PRIVATE	Director of Business Assistance, Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber	~
Wanda Thomas	PUBLIC	Associate Provost, Kent State University	
Michael Hripko	PUBLIC	YSU, Director, STEM Research and Technology-based Economic Development	
Jessica Borza	PRIVATE	Vice President of Workforce Strategies, Thomas P. Miller and Associates	

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

#### **Economic Development District**

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) created 320 Economic Development Districts (EDD) around the country, of which Eastgate is one. The EDD's play a key role in local economic development by allowing the region to establish priorities for projects and investments, helping the EDA to more effectively invest federal dollars.

In August 1992, the Eastgate area- Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, was designated an EDD by the EDA. This designation permits local government entities to qualify for EDA grants.

To remain qualified as an Economic Development District, Eastgate must adopt a regional comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). The plan is designed to foster regional cooperation through the identification of mutually shared needs, the establishment of goals and objectives, and assigned action steps to improve the economic base and general quality of life in the District. This is accomplished through long range planning to ensure that public investment project will, to the maximum extent possible, stimulate the creation and/or retention of jobs in the District.

According to Title 13, Chapter 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

CEDS are designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen Regional economies. The CEDS should analyze the Regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing Regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a Regional plan of action, identifying investment priorities and funding sources, and assigning lead organizations responsibilities for execution of the CEDS. Public and private sector partnerships are critical to the implementation of the integral elements of a CEDS.

The following report follows the federal guidelines for the content and creation of a CEDS.

# EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OVERVIEW

#### POPULATION

Population dynamics can produce positive or negative influences on the economic base of a local community. An increasing population becomes an expanding market for local business. It also means an expanding tax base, preferably at a rate faster than the increasing demands for public services. A declining population shrinks the local economy. Fewer goods and services are sold, job reduction takes place, and tax revenues decline for schools, safety forces, and other public services and capital investments. Unfortunately, characteristics of a blighted community quickly appear, and physical problems are accompanied with social problems. The latter condition triggers a new set of public costs that are not as big a burden when the economy is strong. Thus, population growth or decline is extremely influential on the local economy.

Since the time of the first Federal census following the creation of the three counties that make up the Eastgate Economic Development District, there was a continuous increase of population in each succeeding decade - until the last few decades of the Twentieth Century. Between 1970 and 1980, the population of Mahoning County began to decline, and between 1980 and 1990, the Trumbull County population started to decline. This has been the pattern up through the 2010 census. Ashtabula County overall increased in population in the thirty years, but lost a small percentage of its population between 2000-2010.

The table below illustrates the decline in population in two out of three of the Eastgate Economic Development District's three counties, plus the two central cities of Warren and Youngstown. The majority of the District's population loss took place in the central cities. Note, however, population growth continued to increase statewide during the same period.

	1970	2000	2010	2011	Numerical Change from 1970
Ohio	10,652,017	11,353,140	11,536,504	11,541,007	888,990
Ashtabula County	98,235	102,728	101,497	101,354	3,120
Mahoning County	303,424	257,555	238,823	237,270	-66,154
Youngstown	139,759	82,026	66,971	66,571	-73,188
Trumbull County	232,579	225,116	210,312	209,264	-23,315
Warren	63,494	46,832	41,557	41,358	-22,136

Population Decline 1970-2011

Source: Ohio Department of Development, Office of Policy Research and Strategic Planning

The population decline during the latter decades of the 20th Century did not occur evenly across the counties. Though some municipalities and rural areas experienced

population decline, others actually continued to grow. The township populations grew, while inner city populations declined. This suburbanization of the region creates its own challenges in terms of maintaining and expanding public infrastructure to accommodate the population shift.

Throughout the first decade of the 21st century the population trend has continued in the same direction, with the state slightly increasing in population and the local EDD decreasing in population. Now, however, along with the cities of the three county regions, even the suburbs felt the pinch of a declining population throughout the 2000's.

	2000 Census	2010 Census	Percent Change
City of Youngstown	82,026	66,971	-18%
City of Warren	46,832	41,557	-11%
City of Ashtabula	20,962	19,124	-9%
Boardman Twp.	42,518	40,889	-4%
Austintown Twp.	38,001	36,722	-3%
Liberty Twp.	23,522	21,982	-7%
Howland Twp.	17,546	19,106	8%
Ashtabula Twp.	23,239	20,941	-10%
Geneva Twp.	11,954	11,098	-7%

	Demulation Chan	2000 2010
City and Township	Population Chang	es 2000-2010

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010

The declining suburban population does not bode well for the region as a whole, with some of the townships having equal or higher percentage of population loss than the cities. This trend does strengthen the argument for reinvestment in the urbanized areas where infrastructure already exists. The depopulation of the suburbs will leave them with a high cost of infrastructure maintenance with a shrinking population and tax base, an experience the cities of the region are all too familiar with.

Percent Change in Young Adult Population 1997-2009 (Economic Development District)

Region					
Area	Average Annual Change in Young Adult Population	Young Adult Population 2009	Young Adult Population 1997		
Region	-2.3%	127,589	167,331		
U.S.	-0.2%	83,096,278	85,573,378		
	Counties				
Area	Average Annual Change in Young Adult Population	Young Adult Population 2009	Young Adult Population 1997		
Ashtabula, OH	-1.7%	24,137	29,759		
Mahoning, OH	-2.4%	54,301	72,199		
Trumbull, OH	-2.4%	49,151	65,373		

#### POPULATION FORECAST

The State of Ohio is projecting the 2040 population for the EDD to continue at a loss. This underscores the need for continued planning for shrinking cities, investment in existing infrastructure and cultivating the existing industry clusters in the region.

	2010 Census		
Ohio	11,536,504	12,547,697	+ <b>9</b> %
Ashtabula County	101,497	98,610	-2%
Mahoning County	238,823	221,005	-7%
Trumbull County	210,312	195,596	-7%

Source: Ohio Development Services Agency

#### INCOME

Looking back to the 2000 census numbers, the median family income in the Eastgate Economic District was lower than the Nation and the State, and significantly lower in the cities of Youngstown, nearly forty percent (38.63%) and Warren, nearly thirty percent (27.74%) lower than the State median family income. This gap increased in 2010 with Youngstown 43% lower than the state median income, and Warren 34% lower. Mahoning County closed some of the income gap between 2000 and 2010 going from 11.7% lower than the state median family income to 9% lower. Trumbull County trended the opposite way, going from 7.6% lower than the state median family income in 2000 to 11.8% lower in 2010. Ashtabula actually outpaced the state percentages in the last decade, but remains 13.6% lower than the state median numbers.

	2000 Median Family Income	2010 Median Family Income	Percent Change
U.S.	50,046	62,112	+24%
Ohio	50,037	58,566	+17%
Ashtabula County	42,449	50,571	+19%
Mahoning County	44,185	53,216	+20%
Youngstown	30,701	32,910	+7%
Trumbull County	46,203	51,623	+12%
Warren	36,158	38,389	+6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Per Capita Income						
	2000 Per Capita Income					
U.S.	21,587	26,942	+20%			
Ohio	21,003	24,738	+15%			
Ashtabula County	16,814	19,557	+14%			
Mahoning County	18,818	23,083	+18%			
Youngstown	13,293	14,659	+9%			
Trumbull County	19,188	20,990	+9%			
Warren	16,808	16,089	-4%			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

The investment rate maps found on Appendix 4 are individualized to the census tract level for each county in the EDD and are based on EDA's criteria for investment rates based on the Per Capita Income of each census tract in each county. The rates are determined by comparing the per capita income of the census tract to the national average, based on the result, the EDA investment rate is determined.

#### POVERTY

The following table compares the local area, in terms of poverty, with the Nation and the State. Mahoning and Ashtabula Counties resemble National trends in 2005, but surpass the national numbers by 2009. Trumbull County aligns more with the State percentage in 2005, but joins its' neighboring counties in far surpassing state and national averages by the end of the decade. Most of the poverty is concentrated in the central cities. The 2009 numbers show an enormous disparity between state and national poverty rates and the rates in Youngstown and Warren. With the exception of Youngstown and Warren, senior citizens (age sixty-five and older) living in poverty are close to the National and State percentages.

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	Families below poverty 2005	Families below poverty 2010	Children below poverty 2005	Children below poverty 2010	Senior citizens below poverty 2005	Senior citizens below poverty 2010
U.S.	9.2%	10.5%	16.1%	20.1%	<b>9.9</b> %	9.4%
Ohio	7.8%	10.8%	14.0%	21.4%	8.1%	8.2%
Ashtabula Co.	9.2%	12.0%	16.0%	22.9%	8.6%	8.6%
Mahoning Co.	9.6%	12.7%	19.1%	26.5%	8.7%	9.3%
Youngstown	20.4%	27.7%	37.3%	55.8%	13.3%	12.8%
Trumbull Co.	7.9%	12.6%	15.4%	28.0%	7.6%	8.7%
Warren	16.2%	27.2%	29.8%	47.6%	<b>9.9</b> %	15.0%

**Poverty Levels** 

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

To see the real effect of the disinvestment in the inner cities, the table below documents the change in poverty level for the City of Youngstown for the years 2005 through 2010. A significant and steady increase in poverty level, including and highest among families with young children, is clearly continuing in the city. The sharp downturn in the national economy beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2009 is captured in these numbers, especially concerning is the 88% poverty level of single mothers of young children. That represented a full 15 percentage point increase in a single year. A decrease in the numbers begins to occur in 2010, with the exception of married couple families below poverty level doubling in number from 2009 to 2010.

Reduction of poverty in a community should always be a priority in any economic development plan. Poverty will produce unnecessary public costs in terms of public assistance payments, unfunded medical expenses, law enforcement and incarceration costs, increased insurance rates, and property devaluation. The most tragic costs, however, are the impacts on individuals caught in the web of poverty: the daily personal struggle, the family instability, and the feeling of hopelessness. The presence of poverty in a community can indicate the need for a number of initiatives beyond welfare, such as early childhood intervention in the school system, code enforcement, and job training. Poverty is always a tragic loss for humanitarian reasons, but because it makes good economic sense, the elimination of poverty should always be a community-wide concern as well.

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN POVERTY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All families	20.60%	27.00%	29.0%	27.0%	29.8%	25.2%
With related children under 18 years	36.00%	42.90%	47.8%	47.4%	47.2%	49.2%
With related children under 5 years only	46.90%	54.00%	59.5%	60.1%	67.6%	<b>58.9</b> %
Married couple families	4.80%	11.30%	12.3%	5.7%	6.1%	12 <b>.9</b> %
With related children under 18 years	6.50%	12.40%	20.2%	14.0%	11.1%	32.1%
With related children under 5 years only	8.20%	16.90%	20.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Families with female householder, no husband present	35.00%	49.30%	51.7%	47.4%	<b>59.7</b> %	47.4%
With related children under 18 years	46.60%	59.00%	65.1%	56.0%	72.0%	73.9%
With related children under 5 years only	70.5	74.10%	72.5%	73.2%	88.6%	68.3%
All people	24.30%	30.50%	32.6%	33.5%	35.7%	31.8%
Under 18 years	39.10%	48.90%	54.1%	53.1%	56.7%	54.7%
Related children under 18 years	N	48.80%	53.8%	52.6%	55.0%	54.7%
Related children under 5 years	N	52.00%	67.9%	60.6%	65.2%	57.7%
Related children 5 to 17 years	N	47.70%	49.8%	49.8%	51.9%	53.6%
18 years and over	19.50%	24.50%	26.8%	27.0%	29.2%	26.1%
18 to 64 years	22.00%	28.10%	28.1%	30.9%	33.3%	30.7%
65 years and over	11.40%	12.50%	22.1%	11.0%	14.5%	11.1%
People in families	21.80%	28.60%	31.5%	30.3%	32.6%	30.3%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	33.70%	38.90%	35.8%	41.6%	44.5%	36.2%

Percentage of Families and Peo	ple Whose Income in the	Past 12 Months is Below	the Poverty Level
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

#### THE REGION IS ADDRESSING POVERTY

\*The City of Youngstown's school system is making great strides by embracing three "Guiding Principles of Aspirations" to empower the students to believe in themselves and succeed in life. The principles are: Developing Students' Self Worth; Fostering Student Engagement in Learning; and Encouraging a Sense of Purpose. This paradigm shift in the way the school system is empowering students to reach goals is showing progress and promise within a school system which has struggled for years with very low test scores and low graduation rates.

\*Ohio Works Incentive Program. This is a statewide initiative between Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and the Office of Family Assistance. This is an initiative where WIBs and local county Job and Family Services coordinate together to further assist Ohio Works First recipients to move into and retain unsubsidized employment. The program allows for placement and retention incentives to be earned for individuals placed in on-the-job training or directly into unsubsidized employment. The goal of this project is to reduce dependency on the Ohio Works First program while strengthening Ohio's workforce.

\*MYCAP (Mahoning-Youngstown Community Action Partnership)-- plans and implements quality services designed to educate and empower eligible residents of Mahoning County with a goal of moving toward self-sufficiency. They provide Head Start classes for children to the age of 5, home weatherization programs, financial literacy case management, and other benefits. Family Initiatives such as: VITA Tax Preparation Assistance/EITC Program; Senior Outreach Services; Male Involvement Program; Foster Grandparents Program; computer literacy; employment & education; Financial Stability Strategies; nutrition education ;parent engagement; and Early HeadStart

#### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

If a local region is to remain (or become) competitive in a highly technological, global economy, it must have an educated and skilled work force. The table below illustrates the fact that the counties of the region, and especially the central cities, substantially lag behind the Nation and the State in the percentage of baccalaureate and graduate degree attainment. Our region does, however, exceed state and national rates of adults with only a high school diploma or with less than a high school diploma. The vast majority of the population holds only a high school diploma. This condition of lower education rates relegates the Eastgate Economic Development District to a weak position when trying to attract investment from high value added companies that rely on an educated work force for all levels of staffing.

	Less than high school diploma	High school diploma, no college	Bachelor degree	Graduate degree
U.S.	14.6%	28.6%	17.7%	10.5%
Ohio	12.2%	35.4 %	15.5%	9.0%
Ashtabula County	15.1%	45.9%	8.8%	4.3%
Mahoning County	12.1%	40.4%	13.6%	7.3%
Youngstown	20.5%	43.5%	7.2%	3.7%
Trumbull County	12.9%	45.4%	11.3%	5.3%
Warren	17.7%	45.6%	7.9%	3.3%

#### Educational Attainment (2011 Estimates)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

The EDD offers one community college, Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC), which operates four regional campuses, only two of which are in the EDD; one in Mahoning and one in Trumbull. This Community College just recently began operation in these counties as it was authorized in 2009 by the state to expand from the former Jefferson Community College north into Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties and changed its name to Eastern Gateway Community College. The numbers in the chart below are for enrollment in all four campuses.

The district is also home to one main-campus state university, Youngstown State University (YSU). There are also two regional campus university sites, one in Trumbull County and one in Ashtabula County through Kent State University (KSU).

Headcount Enrollment												
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
YSU	11,80 8	12,34 1	12,73 9	12,87 8	13,15 7	12,92 0	13,27 9	13,60 3	13,68 3	14,64 9	15,10 0	14,49 6
KSU Ashtabul a	1,247	1,333	1,386	1,369	1,471	1,512	1,536	1,583	1,733	2,248	2,536	2,505
KSU Trumbull	2,437	2,224	2,302	2,263	2,173	2,053	2,012	2,124	2,066	2,642	3,158	3,231
EGCC										2,095	2,209	2,441

Source: Ohio Board of Regents

County	School District	Enrollment	Graduation Rate			
	Lakeside High School	1,165	76.9%			
	Edgewood High School	640	<b>89.8</b> %			
	Conneaut High School	663	86.2%			
Ashtabula	Geneva High School	883	87.8%			
	Grand Valley High School	422	<b>89.</b> 5%			
	Jefferson Senior High School	659	92.5%			
	Pymatuning Valley High School	478	<b>89.8</b> %			
	Austintown Fitch High School	1,622	91.3%			
	Boardman Local High School	1,590	89.4%			
	Memorial High School	379	84.2%			
	Canfield Local School District	1,031	96.2%			
	Hubbard High School	734	93.3%			
	Jackson-Milton High School	303	91.8%			
	Lowellville High School	324	93.2%			
	Poland Seminary High School	790	99.0%			
Mahoning	Mckinley High School	296	85.2%			
	South Range High School	425	94.5%			
	Springfield High School	368	98.1%			
	Struthers City School District	707	86.6%			
	Mineral Ridge High School	304	94.4%			
	West Branch High School	769	90.1%			
	Western Reserve High School	448	91.7%			
	Youngstown Chaney High School	771	73.5%			
	Youngstown East High School	831	62.0%			
	Bloomfield High School	145	94.4%			
	Bristol High School	338	95.2%			
	Brookfield High School	414	87.2%			
	Cardinal High School	415	91.8%			
	Champion High School	513	95.3%			
	Girard Senior High School	520	93.2%			
	Howland High School	1,011	91.4%			
	Joseph Badger High School	285	95.3%			
	LaBrae High School	465	<b>89.8</b> %			
Trumbull	Lakeview High School	753	93.6%			
Tumbull	Liberty High School	560	90.6%			
	Lordstown Local High School	276	87.5%			
	Maplewood Local High School	300	98.5%			
	Mathews High School	247	91.1%			
	McDonald High School	439	97.3%			
	Newton High School	256	92.2%			
	McKinley High School	824	82.5%			
	Southington Local School District	188	92.3%			
	Warren G. Harding High School	1,600	76.0%			
	Weathersfield Local High School	304	95.7%			
Source: Ohio Department of Education, 2010-2011 School Year						

High School Enrollments and Graduation Rates (2010-2011)

Source: Ohio Department of Education, 2010-2011 School Year

#### EMPLOYMENT

#### **Unemployment Trends**

The District has consistently seen unemployment rates 16-30% above state and national averages respectively. The industrial manufacturing base no longer exists at levels which once sustained the region. The trend of population reduction, job loss and low educational attainment poses a serious challenge to workforce development in the area.

Civilian Labor Force Esciliates For. Avg 2011								
Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate				
Ashtabula County	47,500	42,500	5,100	10.6%				
Mahoning County	112,900	102,100	10,800	9.6%				
Trumbull County	101,700	91,900	9,800	9.6%				
Ohio (Seasonally Adjusted)	5,806,000	5,305,000	501,100	8.6%				
US (Seasonally Adjusted)	153,617,000	139,869,000	13,747,000	8.9%				

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates For: Avg 2011

Source: Ohio Dept Job and Family Services, Ohio Labor Market Information

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates For: December 2012

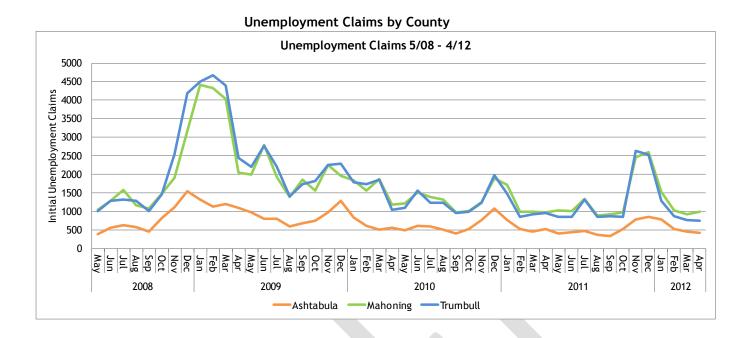
Area Name	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Ashtabula County	46, 600	42,400	4,200	9.0%
Columbiana County	50,900	47,000	3,900	7.6%
Mahoning County	111,000	102,900	8,200	7.3%
Trumbull County	100,700	92,600	8,100	8.0%
OHIO (Seasonally Adjusted)	5,724,000	5,347,000	376,100	6.6%
US (Seasonally Adjusted)	155,511,000	143,305,000	12,206,000	7.8%

Source: Ohio Dept Job and Family Services, Ohio Labor Market Information

Civilian Labor For	ce Estimates Mahoni	ng/Trumbull/Ashtabu	la Combined

Month/Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Avg-2010	266,700	235,300	31,400	11.8%
Avg-2011	262,200	236,500	25,600	9.8%
Avg-2012	260,100	238,700	21,400	8.2%

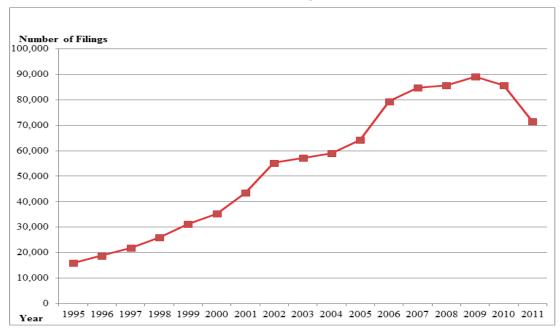
Source: Ohio Dept Job and Family Services, Ohio Labor Market Information



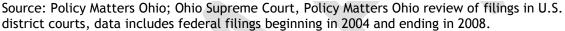
#### Home Foreclosures

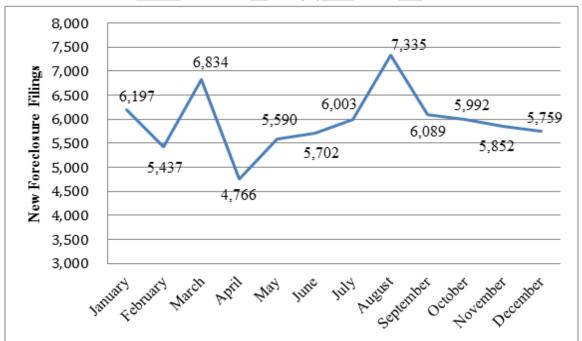
Another telling indicator of the lasting effect of the great recession is the number of foreclosures many regions have experienced. The ripple effect of foreclosures on neighborhoods, cities and regions is devastating. A great proportion of a family's wealth is traditionally tied up in the equity of their home. As foreclosures skyrocketed into the millions, many families watched the value of their greatest asset diminish, retiree's and soon to be retirees experienced a serious setback in their expected retirement nest-egg, and families across the nation were displaced from their homes, jobs and communities. While foreclosures have slowed, the lasting effects on the nation will be felt for decades.

RealtyTrac, a real estate resource website that collects and processes home sales and foreclosure data, ranked Ohio #7 nationally in number of foreclosures in 2008. Even as the trends slow, Ohio remains at crisis levels. According to the latest survey by the Mortgage Bankers Association, conducted in the fourth quarter of 2011, Ohio's national ranking in new foreclosures has fallen, but the state remains among the most troubled. The survey found that 8.42 percent of all Ohio mortgages are either actively in foreclosure or past due in their payments by at least 90 days. The survey also found that new foreclosure proceedings were started on 1.08 percent of home loans during the quarter, ranking Ohio eleventh in the nation. More than 520,000 Ohio mortgages remain "under water," with debt exceeding current value.



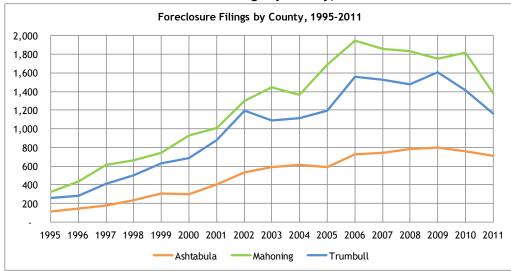
Ohio Foreclosure Filings, 1995-2011





Ohio Foreclosure Filings per Month, 2011

Source: Ohio Supreme Court



Ohio Foreclosure Filings by County, 1995-2011

Source: Policy Matters Ohio, Ohio Supreme Court

Because so much of a family's wealth is tied to the value of their home, falling home values has caused most Americans to pull back on spending. This reduction in spending begins the cycle of corporate losses, layoffs, and less spending. The problems in the credit market, tied to subprime mortgages and bad loans increased the problems many businesses face, all culminating in a severe recession with unemployment in the double-digits before the economy began to recover. Now, even with the foreclosure numbers declining, they remain troubling and continue to devastate communities and local economies.

#### TRANSPORTATION ACCESS

Public Transportation in Mahoning County is provided by the Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA). WRTA provides fixed route service, curb-to-curb service and special service transit for disabled and seniors. Niles-Trumbull Transit provides door to door service in Trumbull County. Ashtabula County provides both fixed route and door-todoor service.

The region is at a pivotal cross point when it comes to rail transportation. Rail transit carries 31% of all inbound freight in Northeast Ohio, and is frequently cited as a need by existing and incoming industry. There is no passenger rail service stops in the region, even though the region is located between Chicago and New York.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport is vital to the transportation needs of the region. There are two runways for public use and one assault strip used by the US Military. Passenger service is available to destinations in Florida. This is also the home of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

The regions highway access is a jewel in the economy. Interstate 80 runs directly through Mahoning and Trumbull Counties for East-West travel, Interstate 90 runs through Ashtabula County connecting it to the East to Buffalo and all the way to Boston, and to Chicago to the West. SR 11 connects the region from Lake Erie down to the Ohio River.

#### THE COMMUTER SHED

District boundaries are sometimes arbitrarily defined and do not represent the real flow of economic activities in a given geographic area. Further, boundaries for the State and Federal Economic Development District do not overlap with the US Department of Labor's district, which encompasses different counties. This creates challenges for local governments and government agencies who are trying to partner as much as possible to strengthen the region.

The commuter shed provides a snapshot of where residents work, and where the natural boundaries of an economic development district are drawn. In the case of the Youngstown-Warren Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Columbiana County should be included in the District. According to the US Census, 15% of Columbiana County residents and 17% of Trumbull County residents commute to Mahoning County for work. The table below illustrates the pattern:

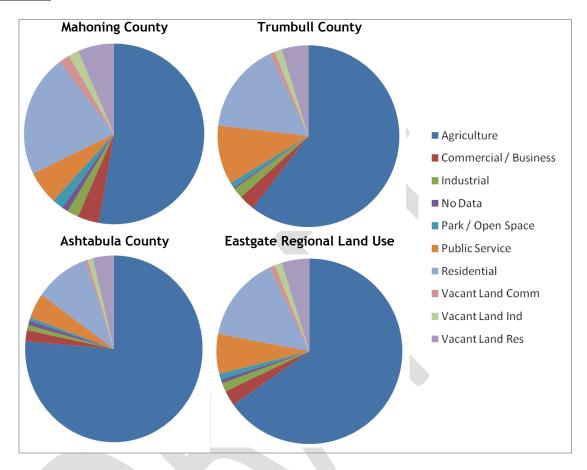
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### Commuter Patterns

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies

#### LAND USE PATTERNS

#### Land Use



#### **Environment**

The region suffers from industrial pollution from its past steel mill manufacturing sector. Legacy brownfield sites in Mahoning, Trumbull, and Ashtabula counties need to be remediated to allow new industry to locate and utilize the infrastructure that exists at these sites. These fixed sites no longer are the source of the heavy pollution they once were. "Nonpoint" sources of pollution, sources that are numerous and dispersed rather than a single point that is simple to regulate and control, have become the major pollution sources in the area.

For example, the region's lakes and streams are impacted by polluted stormwater runoff, which flows off countless streets, parking lots, and farm fields. Similarly, the big problem affecting the region's air quality now is the motor vehicle pollution from more than two million cars and trucks. Flooding from stormwater runoff is a persistent and costly problem. And there are disturbing signs that the health of Lake Erie, which had been improving for several decades, may be deteriorating again (lack of data further frustrates understanding of potential trends).

Air quality in the Youngstown area is deeply impacted by the coal burning plants that line the Ohio River Valley area. During the winter months the air quality is considered "good", while in the warmer months you see "moderate" or "unhealthy" levels in the air quality index (AQI). While most Northeast Ohio counties still fail to meet federal air quality standards for ozone and fine particulates, Mahoning and Trumbull Counties are currently in attainment.

It is important to note that these environmental problems are related to patterns of land use. As development has spread out over more land, there are more paved surfaces and rooftops to shed rain, and people have to drive farther to reach far-flung destinations. The spread of development also affects the diversity of plants and wildlife. And it impacts emerging environmental issues, such as the rising level of carbon emissions that impact the region's future precipitation patterns and conditions for agricultural production.

#### Geography

The region has a total area of 2,428 square miles. The three county areas are as follows: Ashtabula, 1,367 square miles; Trumbull, 636 square miles; and Mahoning, 425 square miles. The area's general topography is gently rolling hills; hillier towards the southeastern portions of Mahoning County. The glaciers that moved through the area thousands of years ago that created the Great Lakes flattened the land and made the soil rich in nutrients. Because of this, the area has a rich history in farming and agriculture. In northern Ashtabula County near the lake, there is a bustling wine industry. The climate of Lake Erie makes Ohio the second largest wine producer in the Midwest after Michigan.

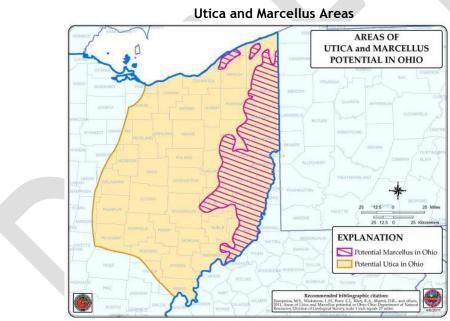
The district sits in a very significant part of the country. Located along I-80 and I-76, the region is the border between the Northeast and the Midwest. It is easily within a day's drive of New York City, Chicago, Washington DC, other vital East Coast metropolitan areas, and Toronto and Southern Ontario, Canada. This makes the region a strategic hub for transportation and distribution of goods.

Ashtabula County has a direct link to the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence Seaway. This is strategic for exporting and importing goods. The region is also close to the Ohio River which is a connection to the Gulf of Mexico. The port city of Ashtabula is one of the most important ports on the Great Lakes because of its eastern location and close proximity to the connection of both lakes Erie and Ontario.

Another important link is the area's location between the major cities of Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Located about an hour from each, the area can look to emulate the successes that both Pittsburgh and Cleveland have had in transforming their economies from solely manufacturing based, to high-tech manufacturing, biotechnology, and healthcare.

#### Marcellus and Utica Shale Development

The region is home to many natural resources. Most recently the discovery and exploration of the Marcellus and Utica shale that lay about 12,000 feet below the surface has been seen as a "game changer" for the Mahoning Valley. The district has experienced investments from manufacturers looking to be close to the drilling sites; most notably, V&M Star Steel invested hundreds of millions of dollars in a manufacturing site to produce the steel pipes needed to drill the wells. Land has increased in value as land owners in all three counties are leasing their mineral rights. Hotels are being built due to the increasing numbers of out-of-town workers coming to work the drill sites as well as industry leaders looking for business opportunities. The impact of the shale gas industry over the next few years remains to be seen; currently natural gas prices remain low, hampering the return on investment for the industry. Long term benefits remain to be understood completely. But, since drilling activity began around 2010, our location to the shale formations and our rich history in manufacturing has had a significant economic benefit for the region, and indicators seem to show that benefit continuing.



Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

In March of 2012, British Petroleum (BP) signed an agreement to lease 84,000 acres of land in Trumbull County. For 2012, ODNR data shows that the 87 horizontal Utica wells produced 635,896 barrels of oil and 12,836,662 mcf of gas, nearly 13 billion cubic feet of gas. That equates to 12% of Ohio's total oil production and 16% of its gas production in 2012. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), there is an estimated 1.3 billion to 5.5 billion barrels of oil, and 3.8 to 15.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Ohio's area of the Utica shale. Western Mahoning County has been the hotspot in the area for drilling wells, with an explosion of growth in the

industry in Trumbull County. Ashtabula County has seen little to no activity in the drilling field yet, but all counties in the district are expected to see significant increases in drilling over the next several years.

In order to fully utilize the resource, Ohio needs infrastructure. The oil and gas need a place to go and a way to get there. Pipelines and processing facilities are being still being built while the oil and gas is already coming out of the ground. It is possible that a lack of pipelines and processing facilities are holding back the potential of the Utica shale. Because this resource is so new, the lack of infrastructure may be a reason so few wells were in production in 2012, and drilling will increase as the infrastructure to properly process and move the gas is completed.

#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association (MCTA) is the administrative and fiscal agent for Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, as well as the One-Stop System Operator, for Mahoning and Columbiana Counties.

MCTA and Trumbull County Job and Family Services provides job training services, including job counseling and assessment, occupational classroom training and on-the-job training to residents of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties, WIA Area 17 and 18.

Area 17's workforce investment board (WIB) was named Ohio's "Outstanding WIB" for three years (2007, 2008, 2009) due to their level of innovation. Areas 17 and 18 work closely together to "brand" our region, which has led to innovation across the state border with the OH-PENN initiative. Areas 17 & 18 are partners in two \$6 million Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Innovation Funds grants. Only 26 WIF grants awarded nationwide.

WIA 19 encompasses Ashtabula, Geauga and Portage Counties. GAPP, Inc. which is Geauga, Ashtabula, and Portage Partnership, Inc. administers the workforce investment program for those three counties.

#### Trends in Workforce Development and Economic Development

#### Business Resource Network (BRN)

Areas 17 & 18 developed this regional model for linking economic development with workforce development to deliver comprehensive demand-driven business services. The partners developed sector-specific initiatives in health care and advanced manufacturing to bring strategic focus to those critical sectors.

Currently there are 40 BRN Partners in the initiative, including chambers of commerce, career and technical centers and colleges, and government organizations and agencies. Partners carry out a research and interview-based comprehensive study of regional employer needs with the intent to provide incentives, support and workforce development products to the region's businesses.

The BRN packages all relevant business services - economic development incentives, technical assistant, consulting, workforce training, and others - from as many of the region's partners that can add value based on a clear, honest assessment of what the business actually needs in the short and long term.

The partners meet on a monthly basis to review the business interviews. Interviews are ongoing and the collaboration and commitment between the partners to support local businesses and help resolve issues many businesses face is strong. This initiative is enjoying enormous success and is important as a link between the business

community and workforce training, government officials, and economic development professionals. Areas 17 & 18 are partners in a \$6 million WIF grant from the DOL to expand the BRN into thirteen additional counties in Ohio.

#### **OH-PENN** Interstate Region

In recognizing that economic development and workforce regions do not follow political boundaries, the Workforce Investment Area's 17 &18 in Ohio, and Lawrence and Mercer Counties, PA West Central Area WIA, joined forces to create the nation's first Interstate Region.

Branded "OH-PENN", the vision of this interstate region is: A sustained forum for planning and action that aligns the efforts of local elected officials along with their leaders in economic development, workforce development, and education under a common brand for growth and innovation for the five counties in Ohio and Pennsylvania to encourage citizens and employers in the region who are engaged with civic leadership in seizing the emerging opportunities for themselves and collectively for the region.

The OH-PENN region has a strategic plan in which four primary objectives have been identified:

- 1. Strategic Intelligence
- 2. Sector Based Research
- 3. Coordination with Economic Development and Education based agencies and professionals
- 4. Regional Advocacy
- 5. Fund Development

Support from economic development and workforce development professionals and local, private industries has been significant. In recognition of how forward-thinking this initiative is, OH-PENN has attracted the attention of private funding opportunities, practically ensuring it continues down a path of success. Recently areas 17 & 18 are partners in a \$6 million WIF grant from the DOL to address the current skills gap affecting the manufacturing sector in the OH-PENN region. The grant will be used to create stronger cooperation across state lines and map career pathways. It is anticipated that the grant will promote stackable credentials in manufacturing workforce Summit held at Youngstown State University in April of 2013. Specifically the funding is expected to be used to go into schools to educate students, teachers and guidance counselors about employment opportunities in manufacturing as well as offset wages for on-the-job training for new employees and paid internships.

## ECONOMIC SECTORS

#### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

The region is strongly committed to technology development and integration, notably in information technology, advanced materials and manufacturing and advanced energy verticals.

The EDD is part of several NE Ohio regional efforts to promote advanced manufacturing and related workforce development needs. The Mahoning Valley Manufacturers' Coalition is specifically focused on the near and long term workforce development, education and training needs of manufacturers. NorTech engages small, medium and large companies and universities for business, funding and research opportunities that create jobs, attract capital and have long-term, positive economic impact. The mission of MAGNET, the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network, is to support, educate and champion manufacturing in Ohio with the goal of transforming the region's economy into a powerful, global player. It manages the Manufacturing Extension Program for the US Department of Commerce, NIST.

Other ways we are looking to grow the advanced manufacturing cluster are to promote advanced manufacturing techniques to the existing manufacturing base to help them overcome perceived barriers to industrial success and public awareness. There are a number of programs and initiatives working to raise awareness of advanced manufacturing techniques, including the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center's STRIVE Initiative, the Youngstown Business Incubator's new manufacturing outreach program, YSUs STEM Colllege and outreach by the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII).

#### Youngstown State University

Youngstown State University (YSU) offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering, information technology, business, medical professions, education, science and technology. YSU is home to Ohio's first and only College of STEM science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each of the three counties in the District average twelve (12) patents awarded to industries or individuals every year.

In 2012, YSU introduced its first Ph.D. program in Material Science and Engineering. The Ph.D. Curriculum places emphasis on technology surrounding hard materials that are inexorably linked to the manufacturing history and future of the district, materials such as steel, titanium, magnesium, industrial ceramics and aluminum.

YSU has been designated by the Ohio Board of Regents as an "urban research university", and vital to that role is the ability to bring together multiple initiatives in materials and sustainable energy leading to new technologies and ultimately new economic development opportunities. The Board of Regents has recognized YSU Centers of Excellence in Materials Science and Engineering, Applied Technology, and

#### Applied Chemical Biology.

The YSU Center in Materials Science and Engineering is devoted to the preparation, advanced characterization, and development of a variety of materials for advancement of basic research, enhanced educational experiences, and practical applications of benefit to society. The YSU Center for Efficiency in Sustainable Energy Systems was established as an interdisciplinary industry-university center that integrates engineering design with energy systems analysis to improve the energy utilization of today's manufacturing industry and tomorrow's alternative energy industry.

In 2012, YSU established the Natural Gas and Water Resources Institute, so as to more adequately prepare graduates for broad ranging careers in support of the burgeoning natural gas industry now evolving in the region. The institute seeks to provide academic research opportunities which support efficient, safe, and environmentally sensitive ways of managing these new energy opportunities.

#### Kent State University

Kent State University's eight-campus system, among the largest regional systems in the country has become an engine for economic, cultural and workforce development locally and internationally. Kent State is ranked among the nation's 77 public research universities demonstrating high-research activity by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Research, technology commercialization and economic development are important to businesses and to society. Kent State is an active participant and has a multitude of research programs, scores of patents and a variety of technology licenses that advance business and industry. Kent State has also facilitated several start-up companies and has assisted many businesses with improved products and processes.

Kent State University's Liquid Crystal Institute®, the most comprehensive research and educational center in the field of liquid crystals, has been demonstrating value with exciting new liquid crystal science initiatives since its creation in 1965. The applications of breakthrough findings at the institute have had an impact on the world, from liquid crystal display (LCD) televisions to computer monitors to new electronic devices, like the iPad. Kent State's liquid crystal research also is an economic driver, aiding the region's economy by incubating new businesses, attracting companies to Ohio because of its research pioneers and educated workforce, and leading to developing high-paying career paths for its graduates. Continuing its excellence in the liquid crystal field, Kent State will be implementing exciting, new research investments involving its people, programs and facilities.

Kent State also understands that Ohio's economic future hinges in large part on the availability of a highly skilled workforce in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and on STEM education. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Kent State University a \$1.08 million grant to support the university's Noyce Scholars Program, designed to increase the number of highly qualified middle and high school teachers in biology, chemistry, earth and space science, mathematics and physics. The five-year grant runs through September 2016 and will provide scholarships for 50 recently graduated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) majors and returning STEM professionals to become certified via the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) initial teacher licensure program.

#### Tech Belt/NAMII

Advanced manufacturing and materials continues to be an area of concentrated focus for the academic and manufacturing leaders of the District. Government investments and academic programs will work to grow this area of specialization while aligning with the "Tech Belt" between Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

In 2012 Youngstown was named as the national headquarters for the nation's first Pilot Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII). Some nine universities and thirty manufacturers collaborated to match \$35 million of funding from a consortium of federal agencies and win this competitive national award which offers the promise of establishing Youngstown and the TechBelt region as global leaders in the fields of additive manufacturing, digital design, metrology, and 3D Printing.

The establishment of NAMII in Youngstown is evidence of the maturation of the Tech Belt, an initiative that seeks to leverage the technology based resources and assets from Cleveland to Pittsburgh, determine core competencies, opportunities for collaboration and provide an environment that encourages organic technology innovation as well as attract external developments.

Prior to the establishment of this Institute, Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI), along with two of its Portfolio Companies and YSU, helped pave the way for this initiative through the successful establishment of a YSU Center of Excellence in 3D Imaging and Industrial Metrology. These technologies represent critical elements of Additive Manufacturing, and will be integral research components of the Institute.

#### Youngstown Business Incubator

The Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI), a State of Ohio Edison Technology Incubator, is a key collaborator in many of the regional technology-based initiatives. YBI's mission is to cultivate and accelerate the formation, growth, commercialization and innovation of technology-based businesses by providing comprehensive, high quality entrepreneurial services and resources in a robust environment. Primarily, YBI focuses on information technology but secondarily, also concentrates on advanced materials, additive and advanced manufacturing and advanced/clean energy applications which are emerging verticals in the District.

YBI has received EDA funding for its incubation properties, most recently for the construction of 30,000 sq. ft. technology center that can accommodate accelerated portfolio companies - those companies that have successfully incubated. YBI's portfolio companies have secured at least 20 intellectual property patents and have developed approximately 25 software applications. Its current roster of portfolio companies includes Turning Technologies, a global leader in audience response software.

#### Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center (TBEIC)

Based in Trumbull County, the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center is a highly specialized, nationally- recognized business incubation and accelerator program supporting advanced and alternative energy and natural resource technology start-ups. TBEIC's 37,000 sq. ft. Warren-based facility is designed to act as a shared technology resource center providing entrepreneurs an early-stage grid integration lab to evaluate grid compatibility and readiness early in the development process. The lab is accessible to start-ups and existing companies across the country seeking access to expertise and equipment to bring grid-connected devices to market.

TBEIC works across the North East Ohio region and nationally to build enduring collaborative master agreements with nationally-ranked research institutions and laboratories. These relationships allow TBEIC to quickly and cost-effectively connect scientific and technical providers to early stage companies to help accelerate technological development. TBEIC also has intimate working relationships with the two largest utilities in the United States (FirstEnergy and American Electric Power) providing important industry-context and validation for emerging energy technologies.

Since 2012, TBEIC has been a member of the JumpStart Entrepreneurial Network, where it serves as the sector lead for advanced energy ventures across the region. Through its entrepreneurial support and coaching activities, TBEIC has already connected with over 20 early-stage companies in their efforts to advance commercialization activities and seek investment funding. TBEIC also engages in a range of regional and community education and outreach activities to help connect

companies with investors, customers and collaborators. Recent programs have ranged from natural gas, to fuel cells and energy storage technologies.

#### Ashtabula County

Ashtabula County is the cradle of the reinforced fiberglass composite industry in the U.S. and produces more polymers and plastics per capita than anywhere in the country. Although most businesses are U.S. based, Ashtabula County has a large international presence of Norwegian, Japanese, German, British, Canadian, and most recently Taiwanese manufacturing plants. This industry has seen significant growth in the region in the past decade.

#### AUTOMOTIVE

Automotive is another cluster industry in the region, with roots that extend over 100 years in the Mahoning Valley. Packard Electric, now the Delphi Corporation, is the leader in electronic components and wiring for the auto industry. The General Motors stamping and assembly plant, like Delphi, is one of Trumbull County's largest employers. The General Motors facility has been in production since 1964. In 2002 a \$500 million investment was announced for the 5 million square-foot facility that encompasses 1,100 acres. In 2008 the announcement that GM would build the Chevy Cruz in Lordstown in 2010 was further proof of GM's commitment to this facility. Since its introduction, the Cruz has been one of GM's most important and top selling new cars. They are now introducing the Cruz Eco which is a high efficient gasoline engine with hybrid like results. EDA's investment in the GM plant was of upmost importance in the success of this plant and the region's economy.

The auto industry is highly competitive. The American auto industry continuously faces strong competition from foreign producers. In order to reduce production costs to remain competitive, the U.S. auto producers have turned to robotics, numerical control, and JIT inventories. The U.S. producers are increasingly looking to other companies (outsourcing) to produce components that were originally made by the parent company. It is this last phenomenon that particularly challenges local communities. Due to rapid shifts in the parent company's supply chain, a local community can be experiencing stable employment and with little notice the community can be experiencing layoffs and be facing hard times.

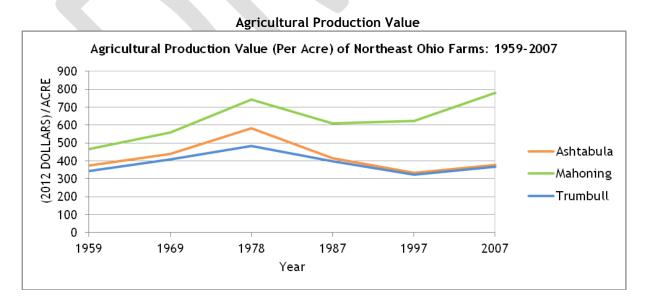
A local strategy to support this industry should be one that supports a close working relationship between the universities and the auto producers in cutting edge technology. This assistance should not be restricted to only the major producers, but just as important is university and incubator support to the out sourced suppliers.

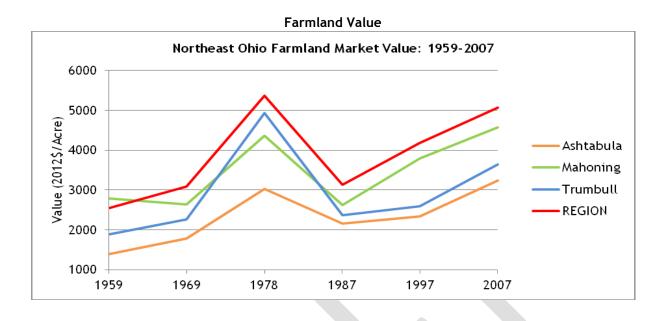
#### **HEALTHCARE**

According to the NorthEast Ohio Trade and Economic Consortium, healthcare in Northeastern Ohio is not only one of the region's largest industries; it is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. Major research and patient care facilities provide millions of dollars to the regional economy each year. At the same time, the healthcare industry is a pivotal force in the regional economy for as it grows other industries (e.g., construction) also expand to meet the growing needs. Concurrent with this, new entrepreneurial healthcare related businesses have grown dramatically throughout the region. In many cases, this has been spurred on by collaborative partnerships between private companies, government agencies and non-profit organizations.

#### AGRICULTURE

The majority of land in the EDD is classified for tax purposes as agricultural use. Often overlooked as an economic driver for the region, agriculture is a significant economic sector for the district. While the size of farms overall is declining regionally, the number of farms appears to be increasing, according to the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center. This could mean an uptick in the number of smaller, more specialized farms as people tap into the economy of locally grown foods as well as crops like grapes for wine-making, organics and urban farms. According to the Ohio Farm Bureau, food and agriculture is Ohio's top industry, contributing \$93.8 billion to Ohio's economy with actual farm gate receipts of \$7.2 billion. We are fortunate in our region to have over 2,500 farms and over 325,000 acres of land in the region in farms. Recent attention to the diverse but interrelated issues of food safety, growing the local economy and childhood obesity have played an important role in the renewed interest in locally grown foods.





The Mahoning Valley continues its involvement in growing the local food system, as indicated by the formation of the Mahoning Valley Agribusiness Focus Group to promote our local agriculture products, the 30 Mile Meal, and the Youngstown Kitchen Incubator. The statewide initiative, Farm to School program, has been embraced by the district and is finding small but significant success locally. The Focus Group also supported the creation of the Lake to River Food Hub. This kitchen incubator will house a retail store, kitchen, cold processing area and there are plans to later offer a thermal processing or canning center. It will provide space, equipment, support and training for the start-up and growth of food-related businesses.

Ashtabula County is enjoying success in its wine industry, not only in sales but also in tourism. The opportunity to grow this industry, selling both products and place, is not overlooked by local officials and will remain a priority for the region.

The Clean Ohio Fund is a widely popular State funding opportunity which identifies Farmland Preservation as one of its four areas of focus. The state has several other programs aimed at helping maintain Ohio's land-based industry from development pressures and increased costs. Land preservation remains one of the region's objectives in maintaining a high quality of life.

## VISION

## VISION STATEMENT

The development of the current regional economic development plan was guided by a diverse group of citizens from Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull counties that represent the private and public sectors and academic institutions. The vision statement is as follows:

The Eastgate Economic Development District shall achieve a diversified and world class competitive economic base that will provide sustainable, skilled living wage employment opportunities to ensure a high personal standard of living and a strong local tax base that will support healthy, vigorous, and stimulating communities in which to live and do business.

#### ISSUES

Every region has issues it must address to achieve its vision. In these issues, opportunities are found. The Economic Development Committee has identified the following challenges that need addressed in our continual efforts to achieve our vision.

- A. Regional Image The entire NE Ohio region has a national image as a "rust belt" region. This portrays a "has been" picture in the minds of outsiders and uninformed.
- B. Aging Infrastructure While federal and state funds are sought on a continual basis, more needs done to maintain and rebuild a safe, reliable and competitive infrastructure.
- C. Population Loss High unemployment and historically low levels of high-paying jobs lead the youth and displaced workers of the district to other regions of the state or to other states entirely.
- D. Economic Disparity Urban cores have high poverty rates while outlying areas have greater wealth and access to resources and economic opportunity
- E. Lack of Business and Industry Diversification While the District is actively making advancements in new sectors, a history of reliance on heavy manufacturing slowly taken over by service sector industries, remains.
- F. Brownfield Redevelopment Heavy industry has left behind a legacy that has contaminated our soils and waterways, requiring enormous investments for clean up and remediation
- G. Educational Attainment The region suffers from a shortage of highly skilled and/or highly educated workforce.
- H. Heath and Wellness The region consistently ranks low when measuring the health of the population against state and national averages.
- I. Lack of a Corporate Presence The areas needs to attract and develop corporate headquarters.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

# Goal 1: ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

**Objectives:** 

- A. Revitalize the central business districts, remediate brownfields, and promote investment and job-creation in distressed inner cities.
- B. Grow the manufacturing and research of advanced materials for technology development, talent attraction and increased economic opportunity.
- C. Expand broadband availability with connection speeds that enable world-class competition.
- D. Upgrade infrastructure to older industrial sites, including accessibility to highways, road widths, and utilities to make sites marketable to incoming industry
- E. Utilize our central location and infrastructure assets by leveraging our water ports, rail access, central highways and airports.
- F. Foster and grow entrepreneurial activity through the YBI, institutions of higher education, minority assistance programs and other regional economic development systems.
- G. Accelerate growth of target emerging industries.
- H. Leverage other State and Federal financing.
- I. Prioritize infrastructure projects needed to serve existing and new industries and markets.
- J. Improve intergovernmental cooperation and coordination within the district.
- K. Inventory and publicize available industrial sites and buildings.
- L. Expand on the agricultural industry by identifying and developing sustainable value- added products for export, and by working to strengthen the local foods movement.
- M. Grow the advanced manufacturing cluster through industry networks and collaborations, talent development, and promoting and advocating our regional assets.
- N. Help appropriate agencies and initiatives connect underserved residents to business and employment opportunities.

## Goal 2: OBTAIN SKILLS AND EDUCATION DEMANDED BY THE REGIONS EMPLOYERS

# **Objectives:**

- A. Align the One Stop workforce development system and its partners with the economic development stakeholders of the region.
- B. Promote programs that enhance and redefine the skills of a varied workforce.
- C. Ensure participation of the school districts across the region to inform students

of

local job opportunities in emerging industries, and the preparation, skills, and requirements needed for those career fields.

D. Promote educational partnerships and new approaches to learning that benefit P16

students and life ling learning.

- E. Help businesses understand what workforce development opportunities exist.
- G. Increase the number of accessible Research and Development facilities as a collaboration between industry and education to enhance new projects and processes.
- H. Foster sector partnerships to align talent supply and demand.

# Goal 3: OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE

Prioritize projects to increase the attractiveness of the region to help attract businesses and talent, to promote healthier lifestyles for the population, to lessen dependence on non-renewable resources, and to improve environmental quality

# **Objectives:**

A. Create and expand opportunities for culture, recreation, and tourism throughout the

District.

- B. Implement standards that redevelop industrially zoned areas and brownfields in an aesthetically pleasing way for new industrial, green industrial or recreational use.
- C. Continue to explore the effectiveness of alternative energy and energy efficiency applications in the Region. As some forms of energy production advance, the climate and weather patterns in NE Ohio become more conducive to cost effective alternative energy production.
- D. Promote walkable, bicycle and transit friendly, livable, sustainable, socially engaging and welcoming places.
- E. Identify high quality natural areas for preservation and protection and protect valuable farmland from sprawl.
- F. Promote the Great Ohio Lake-to-River bikeway and the MetroParks systems.

### Goal 4: <u>COMPLETE DATA SETS AND BECOME MORE DATA DRIVEN IN THE</u> <u>CHOICES WE MAKE</u> Knowledge and the ability to create knowledge creates prosperity.

# **Objectives:**

- A. Identify and develop sources of knowledge and innovation in the economy.
- B. Monitor and update regional cluster sectors as they lose or gain in importance in the regions markets.
- C. Identify meaningful data points to include in the CEDS.

# ACTIVITIES

Concentrate MPO district staff resources on activities that promote regional collaboration and intergovernmental cooperation.

- A. Participate in workforce development initiatives which are tied to the economic vitality of the District, including the Business Resource Network and the OH-PENN interstate region initiative.
- B. Participate in Grow Mahoning Valley, which identifies and prioritizes infrastructure related economic development initiatives in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties.
- C. Participate in the Ashtabula economic development work group and assist Ashtabula County officials in economic development efforts.
- D. Participate in the Mahoning River Corridor Initiative in order to revitalize brownfields for redevelopment along the Mahoning River.
- E. Participate in the Mahoning Valley Food Policy Council to help promote locally grown and produced foods and agricultural goods.
- F. Assist in other planning initiatives of regional significance that improve the quality of life in the District.
- G. Participate in regional transportation planning to ensure transportation needs are being addressed and priorities selected support economic development and community plans.

# PROJECT LIST

The following list has been compiled from several sources. These potential projects are necessary to the growth of the economy in the District. Some of the listed projects are eligible for EDA funding, but many are either not eligible under EDA guidelines or will be funded through state grant programs, often seen as faster and more accessible to local communities than federal grant programs. Following the list of economic development projects is a list of all EDA funded projects through 2010(in appendix 5). The only (public works) project not included in this list is the Ashtabula Plant C project which was submitted in 2011. The current project list is continuously changing due to projects either receiving funding through state sources or projects not able to move ahead to completion. As projects move in and out of the list, the Regional Economic Development Committee is consulted and approves the changes. The District is continuously working to bring projects to EDA for funding, but often due to funding and timing challenges, one or more years pass between local projects submitted to EDA.

PROJECT NAME SPONSOR		TOTAL COST	JOBS CREATED/RETAINED	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)	DESCRIPTION
Little Squaw Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase 4	Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers	\$2,186,637		SCIP/LTIP	extend a sanitary sewer on SR193
Little Squaw Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase 5	Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers	\$ 1,800,000		EDA	extend a sanitary sewer on SR193 past the airport
REVOLVING LOAN FUND RECAPITALIZATION	MVEDC	\$1,000,000	200	EDA	Request to increase funds available to loan for fixed assets as well as working capital
TECH BELT ENERGY INNOVATION CENTER	TRUMBULL COUNTY	\$1,000,000	70	EDA, STATE FUNDING	install a technical infrastructure that early stage companies and their scientific and corporate partners can utilize to develop and better understand the scientific underpinnings and application potential of new energy discoveries and build support and coaching capacity that will help early stage companies succeed in the clean technology industry
GENEVA WINE AND CULINARY CENTER	CITY OF GENEVA	\$9,000,000	70	EDA, ARC, PRIVATE FUNDS	
Ashtabula Airport Water Line	Growth Partnership	\$2,550,000	500	State, CDBG	Jefferson Township, extending a 12" water line 5 miles to serve the area around the airport, enabling the establishment of an industrial area to serve the airport
YSU STEM/Business Incubator	YSU			State, Private	renovate the Garfield Building into an Advanced Materials Laboratory, with space for material innovation and business incubation. a central part of our future STEM College facilities plan

V&M Star	Youngstown	\$650,000,000	650	local/state/federal/ private	New pipe mill and expansion of rolling mill
Lake to River Kitchen Incubator	Common Wealth, Inc., Lake-to-River Food COOP	\$25,000		ARC, USDA, State	Lake-To-River Food Cooperative is a member- owned cooperative of food producers, processors, institutional and commercial buyers who grow, add value to, market and prepare agricultural products in the Mahoning Valley and throughout northeast Ohio. The Incubator is a shared-use commercial kitchen and kitchen incubator that will help farmers and producers add value to their products by processing fresh fruits and vegetables for storage and providing a certified kitchen for baking, catering and more
Howland Golden Triangle	Howland	\$50,000		EDA	Planning grants for Golden Trianglestudy needs/assessment of infrastructure
McDonald Bridge and Roadway	Village of McDonald			ARC EDA SCIP/LTIP	construction of 7,500ft. Of industrial roadway along the e side of rail from bridge area near McDonald Steel to Liberty Street Viaduct.
CASTLO/Lally Rail Service Yard repairs/rehab	CASTLO	\$1,300,000	10	ARC	Track and railroad bridge repairs for redevelopment of CASTLO's area 7
Warren Steel holdings onsite track & West Warren Connection	Warren & Trumbull RR	\$ 1,939,600		ORDC	Will allow Warren and Trumbull RR to reach CSX's Newton Falls Subdivision, and interchange with the CSX mainline at Newton Falls, as well as new industries resulting from the West Warren Industrial partnership and the Warren Commerce Park
Ohio Junction rail yard expansion CSX & Ohio Central RR		\$2,315,300		ORDC	Expansion of interchange yard at Ohio Junction between CSX and Ohio Central (G&W) to accommodate growing steel pipe business

Village of Orwell Water Tower	Village of Orwell	\$515,000	245	ARC	Refurbishment of 500,000 gallon water tower serving 53 businesses
Village of West Farmington Sanitary Sewer Project	Village of West Farmington	\$4,540,000	24	ARC	Install 24,937 LF of sanitary sewer lines in an area with failing septic tanks and is under consent decree. This project will serve 4 businesses, 179 residential properties, 2 public facilities
Canfield Main Water Supply	City of Canfield	\$390,170 ARC water supply trans serving 126 busine schools, 9 public		Remove and replace 300 LF of 24" main water supply transmission line. This is the main waterline for the City of Canfield serving 126 businesses, 3,400 residents, 5 schools, 9 public facilities, and county fairgrounds.	
MRCO Roadway	Campbell/Youngstown			ARC EDA State	Extend existing roadway east along Mahoning River from Campbell to Center St. Bridge
Carson, Jefferson transload expansions	Ashtabula, Carson&Jefferson RR	\$416,000		ORDC	Expanding Rail capacity. For the short term, shale gas business, but for the long term will relieve cramped capacity in general.
Conneaut Port Authority Port Reuse Plan	Conneaut Port Authority	\$75,000		EDA	Reuse plan for economic development of a portion of the Conneaut Port
YBI FIFTH BUILDING PROJECT	ҮВІ			EDA	
SR 534 Sanitary Sewer Project	City of Geneva	\$1,700,000	23	ARC, WPCLF, OPWC, LGIF	Create a JEDD and design and construct sanitary sewer for commercial development along SR 534, opening up commercial development off I90.

APPENDIX

### **GENERAL POLICY BOARD** (2013)

#### **MEMBER**

#### ALTERNATE

Brian Anderson Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County 17 North Market Street Jefferson, OH 44047 Phone: (440) 576-3750 brian@ashtabulagrowth.com

Mayor Eric Augustein Village of Beloit P.O. Box 276 Beloit, OH 44609 Fax: (330) 938-1540 augustein@sbcglobal.net

Jerry Brockway, Superintendent Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School 1565 State Route 167 Jefferson, OH 44047 Phone: (440) 576-6015 jerome.brockway@atech.edu

Nancy Brundage 64 Winona Drive Canfield, OH 44406 <u>nbrundage@att.net</u>

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Daniel R. Claypool Ashtabula County Commissioner 25 W. Jefferson Street Jefferson, OH 44047 Phone: (440) 576-3757 drclaypool@co.ashtabula.oh.us

Mayor John Darko City of Hubbard 220 West Liberty Street Hubbard, OH 44425 Phone: <u>534-3090</u> j.darko@cityofhubbard.com

David Ditzler

Bob Toth Acting City Engineer 220 West Liberty Street Hubbard, OH 44425 <u>R.Toth@CityofHubbard.com</u> Mahoning County Commissioner 21 West Boardman Street, Suite 200 Youngstown, OH 44503 Phone: <u>740-2130</u> <u>dditzler@mahoningcountyoh.gov</u>

### MEMBER

James Ferraro, Director Western Reserve Transit Authority 604 Mahoning Avenue Youngstown, OH 44502 Phone: <u>744-8431</u> jferraro@wrtaonline.com

Mayor Douglas Franklin City of Warren 391 Mahoning N.W. Warren, OH 44483 Phone: <u>841-2601</u> <u>sburns@warren.org</u>

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Paul E. Heltzel Trumbull County Commissioner 160 High Street N.W. Warren, OH 44481 Phone: <u>675-2451</u> **ALTERNATE** 

#### ceheltze@co.trumbull.oh.us

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### **MEMBER**

Mayor Glenn Holmes Village of McDonald 451 Ohio Avenue McDonald, OH 44437 Phone: <u>530-5472</u> mcdoffice@zoominternet.net

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Mayor Harry Kale Village of New Middletown 10711 Main Street New Middletown, OH 44442 Phone: <u>542-2846</u> villageofnewmiddletown@comcast.net

Mayor William E. Kay City of Canfield Dave Harrison 1455 Salt Springs Road Warren, OH 44481 Phone: <u>824-2510</u> <u>PlanningZoning@LordstownVillage.com</u>

<u>ALTERNATE</u>

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#### MEMBER

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ALTERNATE

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### MEMBER

Mayor Tim Sicafuse Village of Poland 308 South Main Street Poland, OH 44514 Phone: <u>757-2112</u> <u>pvadmin@zoominternet.net</u>

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### ALTERNATE

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Mayor David Spencer Village of Craig Beach Lake Milton, OH 44429-0099 Phone: <u>654-2107</u> – Admin. Mayor: <u>502-6384</u> <u>dspencer3469@yahoo.com</u>

Mayor Terry Stocker City of Struthers 6 Elm Street Struthers, OH 44471 Phone: <u>755-2181</u> mayor@cityofstruthers.com

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William Van Such City of Campbell 351 Tenney Avenue Campbell, OH 44405 Phone: <u>755-1451</u> mayor-secretary@campbellohio.gov

Mayor Lyle A. Waddell City of Newton Falls Jack Dill DirAdmin@CampbellOhio.gov 19 N. Canal Street Newton Falls, OH 44444 Office: <u>872-0806</u> <u>cityclerk@ci.newtonfalls.oh.us</u>

Heflin Willingham 6430 Washington Avenue SE Hubbard, OH 44425 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

> Open: Mahoning County (2 seats) Warren City Council or Planning Mahoning County Township Trustee Representative Youngstown Mayor Appt.

Youngstown City Council 26 South Phelps Street Youngstown, OH 44503 Phone: 742-8709

### Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee - 2013

Chairman: Rob Donham Vice-Chairman: Donald J. Barzak

**Brian Anderson** Peggy Carlo Tara Cioffi Bill D'Avignon Rex Fee Pat Ginnetti Mark Hess Jim Kinnick Kristen Olmi Paul Makosky Mayor Jim Melfi **Dennis Miller** William Miller Tom Nugen Michael O'Shaughnessy **Kurt Princic Charles Shasho** Randy Smith Tony M. Urankar Joseph Warino **Clarence Williams** 

**Terry Thomas** 

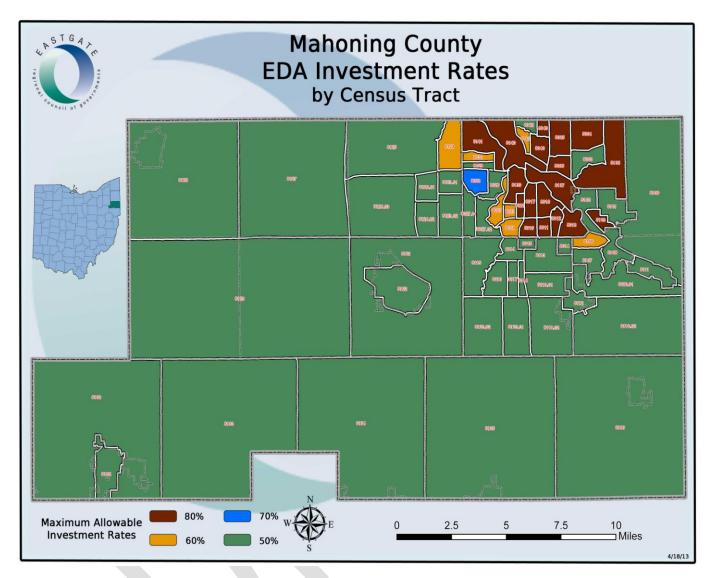
Mahoning County Engineer's Office Trumbull County Engineer's Office

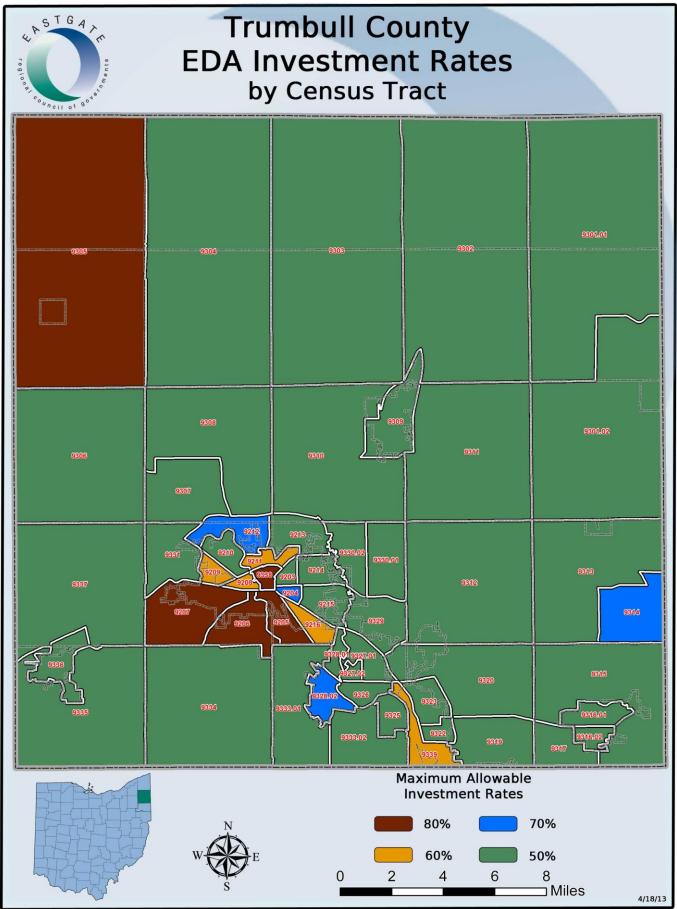
Ashtabula County Commissioners Ashtabula County Commissioners Mahoning-Trumbull Air Pollution Control Agency Youngstown City Planning **Executive Director, Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers** Mahoning County Engineer (Rob Donham – Alternate) City of Niles **ODOT - District 4** Mahoning County Sanitary Engineers City of Warren Girard **Director Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District Trumbull County Planning Commission** Western Reserve Transit Authority Mahoning County Planning Commission OEPA (Pat Billett - Alternate) **City of Youngstown** Trumbull County Engineer (Donald Barzak – Alternate) **ODOT - District 4** City of Canfield Mahoning-Youngstown Community Action Program

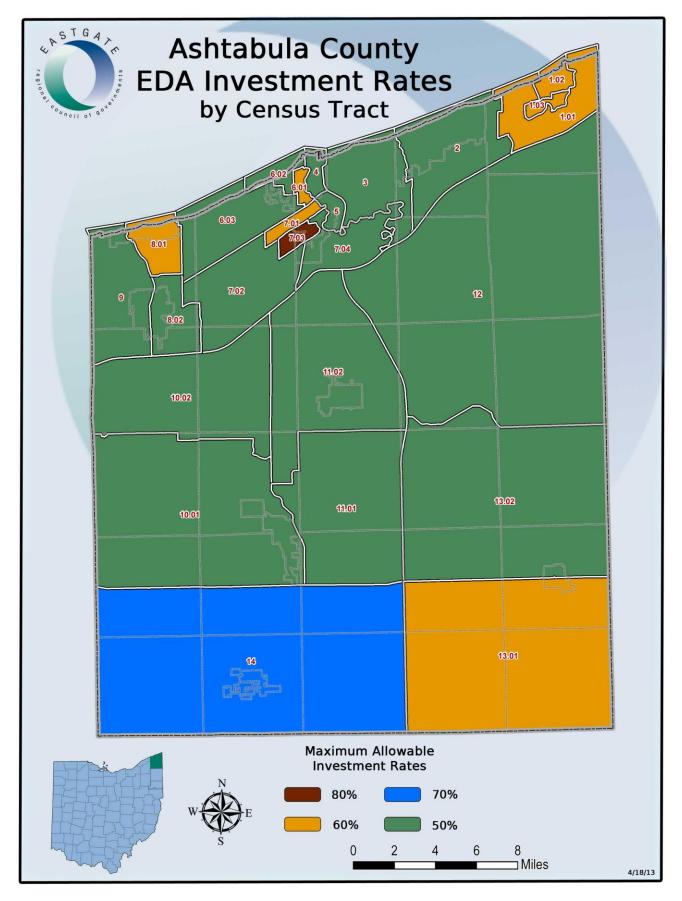
Community Bus Services, Inc. (non-voting)

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Citizens Advisory Board - 2013

Jim Bolchalk George Brundage Nancy Brundage ~ Mahoning County GPB Representative Jim Converse Ray DeCarlo ~ Alt MC GPB Representative Lark Dickstein-Renerth **Genevieve Germaniuk** Fred G. Hanley, Jr. Janice Hardman Janet Hazlette ~ Vice Chairman Gerald Hurayt Karen Joseph Phil Kidd Ilona Labusch Jerome Parm James J. Pirko ~ CAB Chairman, Alt TC GPB Representative Thomas Smalls Janet Weisberg Heflin Willingham ~ Trumbull County GPB Representative







## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS IN THE OHIO EASTGATE REGION SINCE 1992

County	Program	Project No.	Applicant Name	Project Description	Award	EDA \$	Total \$		
Name					Date				
Ashtabul	PW	060105052	Ashtabula City of	Industrial Park Dev.	09/28/05	300,000	997,729		
<u>^</u>		060102860	Conneaut City of	Water/sewer Improv	09/02/97	600,000	1,765,000		
		060205375	Conneaut City of	Develop Industrial Park	05/19/09	365,000	1,440,000		
		060105046	Orwell Village of	Infrastructure Improv	09/23/05	400,000	1,264,611		
	Т9	06390205802	Ashtabula County of	Recap RLF	06/17/93	250,000	375,000		
County To	otals:	I	5			1,915,000	5,842,340		
Mahoning	PL	062502715	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	Dist Pig Grant	09/27/94	30,999	76,000		
		06051110595	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/08/95	55,756	76,000		
		06051110596	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	09/03/96	51,000	68,000		
		06051110597	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/18/97	51,000	68,000		
		06051110598	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/23/98	53,000	70,667		
		06051110599	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	07/15/99	53,000	70,667		
		068304430	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/28/00	53,000	70,667		
		068304590	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	07/17/01	53,000	70,667		
		068304719	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/27/02	53,000	70,667		
		068304847	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	07/24/03	52,385	69,847		
		068304950	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	09/07/04	52,628	70,170		
		068305034	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/30/05	60,891	81,188		
		068305139	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	District Cont Pig Grt	06/14/06	52,628	105,256		
		068305222	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	Renewable Ping Invest	06/19/07	157,844	315,688		
		068305608	Eastgate Reg Cncl of Gvt	Renewable Ping Invest	08/25/10	187,844	375,688		
	PW	060104674	Mahoning County of	Bridge Construction	06/13/02	1,800,000	3,050,000		
		060105150	Youngstown Central Area	Const. Tech Cntr Bldg	09/08/06	2,000,000	4,502,025		
		060102617	Youngstown Edison	Incubator	06/25/93	810,836	962,000		
		060102898	Youngstown Edison	Incubator Renovation	07/01/98	498,000	830,000		
County T	County Totals: 19 6,126,811 11,0								
Trumbull	PW	060104789	Lordstown Village of	Water Supply Line	06/06/03	1,300,000	2,840,000		
		060103000	Trumbull County	Ind Park at Airport	09/17/99	911,600	2,516,300		
		060104598	Trumbull County	Const San Sewer Line	12/20/01	564,000	940,000		
·	1					1			

Date: 11/12/10

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS IN THE OHIO EASTGATE REGION SINCE 1992

County	Progra m	Project No.	Applicant Name	Project Description	Award	EDA \$	Total \$
Name					Date		
Trumbull	PW	060105058 060102791	Trumbull County Warren/Mahoning Valley	Sanitary Sewer Project Industrial Park Imps	09/30/05 09/17/96	340.000 951.000	680,860 1,817,000
County To	otals:		5			4,066,600	8,794,160
District To	otal:		29			12,108,411	25,639,697