

Friday, February 14, 2003

Support continues for Euclid Corridor Project

CLEVELAND -- The \$246-million Euclid Corridor Transportation Project, a key effort of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), continues to enjoy strong support in Washington, DC.

On Thursday, Feb. 13, Congress approved the federal appropriations bill for the rest of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003, which ends Sept. 30, 2003. RTA officials have been informed by Senators George Voinovich and Mike DeWine that the bill includes \$6 million for the Euclid Corridor Transportation Project.

President Bush's proposed budget for FFY 2004 continues the recommended rating for the Project. At this time, the proposed budget does not address the critical Full Funding Grant Agreement, which is a prerequisite for ground breaking.

The Project continues to be rated well in most criteria used by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), such as:

- Land use
- Environmental benefits
- Financial plan

The Project's lowest rating is in the area of cost effectiveness, which is a function of new criteria for FFY 2004 -- travel time savings resulting from the Project.

RTA and FTA officials are working cooperatively to determine ways to improve the project's cost effectiveness by re-examining its travel time savings and cost.

"The review process becomes more stringent every step of the way, as the competition for limited Federal funds intensifies," says Joe Calabrese, CEO and General Manager of RTA. "This Project continues to be RTA's top enhancement priority, as well as one of our region's top development priorities."

The Project is a joint effort of RTA, FTA, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, and the cities of Cleveland and East Cleveland.

The Project is now in Final Design. Later this year, RTA plans to seek a Full Funding Grant Agreement from FTA. Construction is expected to start in 2004 and be completed in 2006.

For more information on the Euclid Corridor Transportation Project, call Project Officer Danielle Willis, 216-771-4144, or send e-mail to dwillis@gcrta.org.

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