

OMEGA Impact Statement

Appalachian Regional Commission & Governor's Office of Appalachia

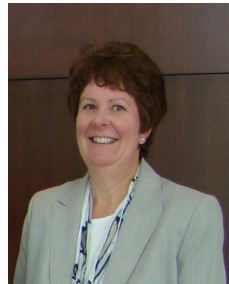
OMEGA secured \$2,085,863 in federal and state ARC and GOA grant funding.

An additional \$14,075,834 was leveraged in other sources of funds
resulting in the creation of 414 jobs and retention of 802 jobs.



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Jeannette Wierzbicki, P.E.
Assistant Executive Director
Transportation/Grants
Manager



Ken Shonkwiler
Transportation
Planner/
GIS Coordinator



(Left to Right): Tuscarawas County Commissioner Chris Abbuhl (Treasurer), Holmes County Commissioner Ray Eyler (Vice President), Mark Barbash, Director of Special Projects, Finance Fund, Carroll County Commissioner Thomas Wheaton (President), Steubenville Mayor Domenick Mucci (Secretary), OMEGA Executive Director Greg DiDonato



Director DiDonato with Past President Wheaton wishing him the best in his retirement. **Thank you Commissioner Wheaton for your hard work and dedication to OMEGA. We will miss you!!**



Local Governments Working Together for Development

2014 Annual Report



Drilling Pad in Jefferson County

Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association

326 Highland Avenue, Suite B

Cambridge, OH 43725

www.omegadistrict.org



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear OMEGA Members and Friends,

I am very pleased to report that 2014 was yet another great year of momentum building for an exciting future for the OMEGA Region. Activities in the region certainly exemplify success breeding success. This is largely due to the oil and gas industry operating in the our region. OMEGA is partnering with The Ohio State University, Office of Extension, and three other economic development districts in the shale region on a project entitled, ***Building Sustainable Communities in Ohio’s Shale Region***, partially funded by the Economic Development Administration. The primary focus of this project is to effectively manage the impacts of recent oil and gas industry development while leveraging the current economic boom to build a plan that strategically advances the growth or startup of manufacturing businesses that will support long-term economic viability and community sustainability with the ultimate goal of avoiding the poten-tial boom-to-bust cycle often associated with a limited natural resource. We will be sure to share the progress of this project with our members.

I would also like to congratulate the economic development professionals in Tuscarawas County and the New Philadelphia/Dover area on being named by Site Selection magazine, a national publication on economic development and industrial site development, as the micropolitan region with the second most industrial expansion and relocation in the United States in 2014. Site Selection defines a micropoli-tan region as an area with a population of 250,000 or less, and tabulates the industrial growth of 585 such regions throughout the country. We are looking forward to the national media coverage this designation will bring to Tuscarawas County and the OMEGA Region!

OMEGA continues to facilitate grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Gover-nor’s Office of Appalachia (GOA), U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), and many other federal and state grant and loan programs. We were recently notified by ODOT that funding for our Regional Transportation Planning Organization will continue for another two years. We will continue to work diligently and cooperatively with our partners to strategically plan and fund each economic development project in a responsible manner that best serves the long-term interest of the region. We always welcome your input. Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Greg L. DiDonato
Executive Director
director@omegadistrict.org

Cover Photo Credit: Marcellus Air Ohio

Appalachian Regional Commission
Development Projects
2014 Project Priority List

Federal ARC Area Development Projects

#	Applicant/Project	County	Status	ARC Request	Other \$	Total Cost
1	Village of Tuscarawas School Street Improve. Phase II	Tuscarawas	Approved	\$100,000	\$672,200	\$772,200
2	Village of Holloway Water System Improve-ments	Belmont	Approved	\$250,000	\$2,318,000	\$2,568,000
3	Village of Kensington Wastewater Collection & Treatment System	Columbiana	Approved	\$250,000	\$2,357,333	\$2,607,333
4	Twin City Water & Sewer District Transmission Main	Tuscarawas	Approved	\$250,000	\$1,166,000	\$1,416,000
	TOTAL			\$850,000	\$6,513,533	\$7,363,533

Access Road Projects

#	Applicant/Project	County	Status	GOA Request	Other \$	Total Cost
1	Village of Strasburg Industrial Park Access Road Improvements	Tuscarawas	Approved	\$174,000	\$560,000	\$734,000
2	Village of Byesville Business Park Road Upgrade	Guernsey	Approved	\$273,363	\$104,000	\$377,363
	TOTAL			\$447,363	\$664,000	\$1,111,363



Dana Soter
Project Manager

Governor's Office of Appalachia Development Projects 2014 Project Priority List

	Applicant/Project	County	Status	GOA Request	Other \$	Total Cost
1	Holmes County Fairgrounds & Expo Center Infrastructure	Holmes	Approved	\$100,000	\$820,000	\$920,000
2	Village of Malvern Waterline Extension (Colfor)	Carroll	Approved	\$75,000	\$412,555	\$487,555
3	Village of Byesville Sanitary Sewer Collection System Repairs	Guernsey	Approved	\$150,000	\$973,073	\$1,123,073
4	Belmont County Commissioner – Ohio Valley Mall Sanitary Sewer Extension	Belmont	Approved	\$100,000	\$407,765	\$507,765
5	Village of Bridgeport Water Improvements	Belmont	Approved	\$200,000	\$800,000	\$1,000,000
6	Holmes Co. Airport Authority Runway Ext.	Holmes	Approved	\$100,000	\$3,096,992	\$3,196,992
	TOTAL			\$725,000	\$6,510,385	\$7,235,385
1	Fairfield Township, Columbiana – Esterly Dr. and Cherry Fork Rd. Improvements	Columbiana	RR Approved	\$39,000	\$249,916	\$288,916
2	Carroll County Commissioner – Northern Corridor Preliminary Engineering Report	Carroll	RR Approved	\$14,400	\$18,000	\$32,400
3	Tuscarawas Valley Heritage Inc. – Fort Laurens Flush Toilets	Tuscarawas	RR Approved	\$10,100	\$120,000	\$130,100
	TOTAL GOA AREA DEVELOPMENT & RR			\$788,500	\$6,898,301	\$7,686,801

RR = GOA Rapid Response Fund 2014

OMEGA Member Governments

Local Governments Working for Development



The member governments of OMEGA include ten county governments -

Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas

and eleven city governments -

Cambridge, Coshocton, Dover, East Liverpool, Martins Ferry, New Philadelphia, Salem, Steubenville, Toronto, Uhrichsville, and Zanesville.

OMEGA is a collaborative body of member governments that serves as a facilitator between state and federal government agencies and local entities to provide opportunities in economic and community development through networking, education, planning, research, and allocation of resources. OMEGA's main objective is to foster a cooperative effort in planning, development and implementation of local and regional plans, programs and projects which will increase the economic activity in the area and improve the quality of life of its citizens. OMEGA is also the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties.

Agency Partners:



Development
Services Agency



OMEGA SUMMER LEGISLATIVE MIXER



Senator Brown (Center) listens as Dale Hileman, Executive Director of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) shares his thoughts at the OMEGA Summer Mixer.

Senator Sherrod Brown attended the OMEGA Summer Mixer on August 20, 2014.

The Senator spoke to an audience of over 100 at the Millersburg Brewing Company in Holmes County. State Representatives Jack Cera (96th HD), Dave Hall (70th HD), Bill Hayes (72nd HD), Brian Hill (97th HD), and Jay Hottinger (71st HD) also attended to meet with local leaders to discuss the latest issues concerning economic and community development. Topics of discussion ranged from education to shale oil and gas development in the region.



Senator Brown with OMEGA Officers and Director



Cindi Kerschbaumer
Communications
Specialist/Project
Manager II

Cindi Kerschbaumer, Communications Specialist/Project Manager II

Ms. Kerschbaumer is responsible for all areas of public relations and communications, including membership, media, website and the general public. She oversees the production and release of annual reports, newsletters, press notices and content of the OMEGA website. She is also the program manager for Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs and administers the OMEGA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report.

E-mail: cindik@omegadistrict.org

Misty Tolzda, Grants Specialist - Ms. Tolzda provides assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations on the identification of viable financing strategies for needed improvements. She facilitates meetings with local officials, community leaders and funding agencies. She also prepares funding applications, conducts environmental reviews, and provides funding administration services. Ms. Tolzda researches funding opportunities, provides program updates, and offers both individual and group training on funding opportunities and grant writing strategies for communities and non-profit organizations. She also serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission Natural Resource Assistance Council for District 14. **E-mail:** mistyt@omegadistrict.org

Lolly Ravak, Revolving Loan Fund Administrator – Ms. Ravak is responsible for all activities required to administer the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program including coordination of business loan packages, analysis of loan applications, facilitation of loan closing and monitoring repayment throughout the term of each loan. She also performs on-site monitoring visits and conducts file audits on a regular basis. Ms. Ravak is cross-trained to assist the Fiscal Officer in a back-up capacity to post vouchers and process payroll. **E-mail:** lravak@omegadistrict.org



Lolly Ravak
Revolving Loan Fund
Administrator

Established in 1992, the OMEGA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program offers low-interest loans to new and existing private-for-profit businesses within the ten county region served by OMEGA. To date, a total of 89 loans have been extended to borrowers in service, commercial and industrial businesses.

The Revolving Loan Fund has invested over \$5,860,000 for the startup or expansion of businesses resulting in the creation or retention of over 1,492 full-time equivalent jobs.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff members serving under the leadership of **Greg DiDonato, Executive Director:**

Jeannette Wierzbicki, P.E., Assistant Executive Director and Transportation/Grants Manager

Ms. Wierzbicki works in conjunction with the Executive Director to further the mission of OMEGA and assumes the responsibilities of the Executive Director in his absence. She manages the development of the Regional Transportation Plan. She is directly involved in developing funding strategies for major infrastructure projects. Ms. Wierzbicki meets with representatives from local governments, community and economic development offices and other agencies to discuss and coordinate potential projects.

E-mail: jeannettew@omegadistrict.org

Sue Wood, Chief Financial Officer/Office Manager – Ms. Wood administers the organization budget and prepares all financial reports. She works directly with the auditors to ensure compliance with all federal and state requirements. Ms. Wood also manages the daily operation of the office, including human resources, payroll, deposits, payments, and account reconciliation. She is cross-trained to assist the Revolving Loan Fund Administrator in a back-up capacity to post payments and deposits.

E-mail: swood@omegadistrict.org

Dana Soter, Project Manager - Ms. Soter prepares OMEGA's administrative grant applications and progress reports for federal and state agencies. She is also the program manager for ARC and GOA projects and develops the OMEGA ARC/GOA Project Package on an annual basis. She provides technical assistance to applicants requesting ARC/GOA funding and administers grants for other federal and state agencies. Ms. Soter is also responsible for conducting the local review for the Intergovernmental Review (IGR) process for project applications submitted to state and federal agencies.

E-mail: danak@omegadistrict.org

Ken Shonkwiler, Transportation Planner/GIS Coordinator – Mr. Shonkwiler works in conjunction with the Transportation/Grants Manager, to develop a Regional Transportation Plan encompassing Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties. He also develops the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) needed to support the transportation plan. Mr. Shonkwiler meets with representatives of local governments, economic development agencies, transit agencies, ODOT, and OMEGA's mentor agency and steering/transportation committees to develop the plan. He prepares progress reports on the transportation plan and participates in public outreach efforts.

E-mail: kens@omegadistrict.org

OMEGA BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Lee Shirey, Economic Development Representative for the Chicago Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) (*photo on right*) was the keynote speaker at the Annual Membership meeting held in March. Mr. Shirey works with local units of government, economic development districts, and non-profits organizations in the states of Michigan and Ohio to promote economic development projects that will help create high skill, high wage jobs and leverage private sector investment. Prior to joining the EDA, he spent the previous ten years leading economic development organizations in Northern Michigan with a primary focus on downtown revitalization and regional economic development.



Guhan Venkatu, Vice President and Senior Regional Officer at the Pittsburgh Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland (*photo on left*) shared his knowledge with our board and partners in April. Mr. Venkatu manages relationships with key stakeholders in the region and is responsible for monitoring the economic environment. His recent research focuses on inflation and inflation expectations, housing and household finance, and factors related to regional economic growth. Mr. Venkatu is a member of the Ohio Governor's Council of Economic Advisors.

Scott J. Ziance, Partner - Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP (*photo on right*) addressed the OMEGA Executive Board in June. Mr. Ziance works with clients interested in utilizing economic development incentives, tax incentives, and economic development financing mechanisms. His presentation focused on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) which is often used to fund public infrastructure projects.



OMEGA EXECUTIVE BOARD				2014 GRANT APPLICATIONS					
COUNTY	REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE	APPOINTED BY	Applicant	Project	Funding Agency	Grant/Loan Request	Total Project Cost	Status
BELMONT	Ginny Favede	Commissioner	Belmont County	Beaver Creek	Education Center Addition (fundraising)	Various Funders	\$150,000	\$150,000	On-going
CARROLL	Thomas Wheaton	Commissioner	Carroll County	Brookside	National Road Improvements	Governor’s Office of Appalachia	\$81,000	\$490,065	Approved
COLUMBIANA	Mike Halleck	Commissioner	Columbiana County	Cross Creek Township	Building Acquisition/Office Relocation (0% int. loan)	ODSA Local Government Innovation Fund	\$100,000	\$252,753	Approved
COSHOCTON	Dorothy Skowrunski	Executive Director Coshocton Port Authority	Coshocton County	Dover	Boat Ramp Project	ODNR Cooperative Boating Facility	\$227,000	\$256,000	Approved
GUERNSEY	Thomas Laughman	Commissioner	Guernsey County	East Liverpool	Downtown Revitalization Feasibility Study	ODSA Local Government Innovation Fund	\$25,000	\$50,000	Not Approved
HARRISON	Don Bethel	Commissioner	Harrison County	Kent State Foundation	“Women in Business” Expo	Timken Foundation	\$965	\$965	Not Approved
HOLMES	Ray Eyler	Commissioner	Holmes County	Guernsey County	U.S. 40 East Sanitary System	Ohio Public Works (0% loan)	\$499,999	\$1,967,403	Recommended
JEFFERSON	Evan Scurti	Jefferson County Port Authority	Jefferson County	Jefferson County*	Neighborhood Initiative: Land Bank	Ohio Housing Finance Agency	\$715,000	\$715,000	Approved
MUSKINGUM	Jerry Lavy	Commissioner	Muskingum County	Mingo Junction	Emergency Waterline Repair	Ohio Public Works (grant)	\$41,697	\$46,330	Approved
TUSCARAWAS	Chris Abbuhl	Commissioner	Tuscarawas County	Newcomerstown	Enterprise Drive Improvements	Ohio Public Works (grant)	\$34,590	\$69,180	Recommended
CITY	REPRESENTATIVE	TITLE	APPOINTED BY	Powhattan Point	Road Improvement Connectors to SR7	Public Works Grant Public Works Loan	\$159,811 \$53,271	\$287,948	Approved
CAMBRIDGE	Thomas Orr	Mayor	City of Cambridge	Powhattan Point	Increased Police Patrol	Justice Assistance Grant	\$6,000	\$6,667	Approved
COSHOCTON	Steve Mercer	Mayor	City of Coshocton	Powhattan Point	Office Consolidation—0% int. loan	ODSA Local Gov’t. Innovation Fund	\$36,000	\$40,000	Approved
DOVER	Richard Homrighausen	Mayor	City of Dover	Salineville	Increased Police Patrol	Justice Assistance Grant	\$5,850	\$6,500	Approved
EAST LIVERPOOL	James Swoger	Mayor	City of East Liverpool	Tuscarawas County	Uhrichsville Neighborhood Revital.	Ohio Dev. Services Agency CDBG	\$300,000	\$769,000	Approved
MARTINS FERRY	Kathy Gaglin	Director of Development	City of Martins Ferry	Yorkville	Energy Efficiency (0% interest loan)	ODSA Local Gov’t. Innovation Fund	\$73,647	\$81,830	Approved
NEW PHILADELPHIA	David Johnson	Mayor	City of New Philadelphia	Yorkville	New Fire Engine	FEMA Assistance for Firefighters	\$373,143	\$391,800	Pending
STEUBENVILLE	Domenick Mucci	Mayor	City of Steubenville	Total			\$2,883,333	\$5,581,441	
TORONTO	John Geddis	Mayor	City of Toronto	TOTAL GRANTS AND LOANS APPROVED					\$1,799,276
UHRICHSVILLE	Terry Culbertson	Mayor	City of Uhrichsville	* Provided Technical Assistance					
ZANESVILLE	Jeff Tilton	Mayor	City of Zanesville						
SALEM	John C. Berlin	Mayor	City of Salem						

GRANT ASSISTANCE



Misty Tolzda
Grants Specialist

OMEGA staff provides funding assistance to communities and non-profit organizations within the ten county region. This assistance includes identification of potential funding sources, project planning, coordination with various state and federal agencies, preparation of applications, technical assistance, environmental reviews, and administrative services. **By offering these services, OMEGA is able to act as an extension of the staff for many small communities and provide the expertise and resources that these communities often cannot afford. We are truly a model for shared services.**

In 2014, OMEGA prepared 17 funding applications for a total request of approximately \$2.88 million in grants and low interest loans. **Eleven of these applications were approved for a total of \$1.80 million. Four more have either been recommended for approval or are still pending.** The approved grants and low interest loans leveraged approximately \$1.15 million in other public and private investments and have allowed communities in our region to proceed with much needed infrastructure improvements, safety and communications equipment purchases, and recreational facilities.

Project Highlights:

City of Uhrichsville Eastport Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization

Tuscarawas County enlisted the assistance of OMEGA in completing an application to the Ohio Development Services Agency for a CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant in Uhrichsville. Due to current staffing levels and multiple projects occurring simultaneously, the county asked OMEGA to submit the application on behalf of the City of Uhrichsville. A vital component to the application was involving the community and gathering input on potential needs of the area to be addressed. OMEGA was able to reach out to individuals in the community for personal comments and to facilitate group discussion through organized evening meetings. The CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization grant includes roadway paving, sidewalks, and storm sewers along Eastport Avenue. This successful grant application procured \$300,000 in grant funding toward a project totaling \$769,000. An additional \$500,000 will be invested to complete a second phase of this much needed community project.

Cross Creek Township—Jefferson County

Cross Creek Township had the opportunity to purchase a former ODOT office building that included garage bays and storage areas. The plan was to relocate township offices into a single building thus reducing operating costs and allowing greater efficiencies in various departments. The plan also allowed the township to order larger quantities of salt and store equipment indoors. The township was able to allocate only 50% of the cost of the building. OMEGA assisted in an application to the Local Government Innovation Fund through the Ohio Development Services Agency to borrow \$100,000 for a period of 10 years at a 0% rate of interest.



Sue Wood
Fiscal Officer
Office Manager

OMEGA FINANCIAL REPORT

Sue Wood is a past recipient of the **Auditor of State Award**. This award is presented to local governments and school districts upon completion of a “clean” financial audit. Entities that receive the award must be a GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) entity without a CAFR (Certified Annual Financial Report) that files their financial reports with the Auditor of State in a timely manner. In order to receive the award, the audit report cannot contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs. The statement below is from an Independent Auditor’s Report.

	Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014					
	General	Revolving Loan	Appalachian Regional Commission	Economic Development Administration	Rural Transportation	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues						
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$342,024	\$58,165	\$79,610	\$479,799
Interest	3,704	89,443	0	0	0	93,147
Membership Fees	88,619	0	0	0	0	88,619
Charges for Services	28,152	3,286	0	0	0	31,438
In-Kind Contributions	0	0	63,406	8,371	0	71,777
Other	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>122,475</u>	<u>92,729</u>	<u>405,430</u>	<u>66,536</u>	<u>79,610</u>	<u>766,780</u>
Expenditures						
Current:						
Economic Development	140,565	76,129	448,092	99,057	113,493	877,336
Capital Outlay	0	2,747	14,437	3,062	8,235	28,481
Debt Service:						
Principal Retirement	0	248	2,270	526	665	3,709
Interest	0	7	69	16	20	112
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>140,565</u>	<u>79,131</u>	<u>464,868</u>	<u>102,661</u>	<u>122,413</u>	<u>909,638</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>	<u>(18,090)</u>	<u>13,598</u>	<u>(59,438)</u>	<u>(36,125)</u>	<u>(42,803)</u>	<u>(142,858)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Inception of Capital Lease	0	1,364	12,477	2,889	3,657	20,387
Transfers In	0	10,576	33,710	16,557	7,481	68,324
Transfers Out	(68,324)	0	0	0	0	(68,324)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(68,324)</u>	<u>11,940</u>	<u>46,187</u>	<u>19,446</u>	<u>11,138</u>	<u>20,387</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<u>(86,414)</u>	<u>25,538</u>	<u>(13,251)</u>	<u>(16,679)</u>	<u>(31,665)</u>	<u>(122,471)</u>
<i>Fund Balances (Deficits) Beginning of Year-Restated</i>	<u>375,136</u>	<u>1,828,618</u>	<u>7,030</u>	<u>(9,866)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,200,918</u>
<i>Fund Balances (Deficits) End of Year</i>	<u>\$288,722</u>	<u>\$1,854,156</u>	<u>(\$6,221)</u>	<u>(\$26,545)</u>	<u>(\$31,665)</u>	<u>\$2,078,447</u>

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) developed by OMEGA completed several major milestones in 2014. The primary objectives of this two-year pilot program are: development of a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), interagency consultation, stakeholder outreach, and development of transportation planning expertise. Since two of our ten counties are members of metropolitan planning organizations, the RTPO only includes Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties.

Milestones:

- Public Participation Plan
- Goals and Objectives
- Existing Conditions
- Future Conditions

The Public Participation Plan, Goals and Objectives, and Existing Conditions are listed on our website.

Our primary work efforts in 2014 focused on the documentation of the Existing and Future Conditions of the transportation systems (roads, bridges, transit, ports and rivers, aviation, rail, safety, pedestrian and bicycle access) in our region as well as demographics, the economy, and environmental concerns.

OMEGA conducted seven Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings and two Citizen Advisory Board Meetings. Included among the featured speakers were Christina Wagner with the ODOT Office of Jobs and Commerce and Michelle May, Supervisor, Program Manager for Highway Safety with ODOT.

RTPO FACTS

450,551 People

17% age 65 and older

Median Household Income: \$41,453 (\$48,246 Ohio)

17.3% Poverty Rate

(15.4% Ohio)

25 minutes commute time

10,350 center lane miles road

70% local roads

Two Interstates: I-70 and I-77

Statewide Primary Corridors: US 30, US 36, SR 16, US 250

2,964 bridges

8% Local Bridges:

General Appraisal ≤ 4

15% Local Bridges:

≥ 65 years old

Four Transit Agencies

Two Coordinated Transportation Agencies

368,100 passengers served

Safety: 30,113 Accidents (2011 to 2013)

2% increase over 3 year period

171 Fatal Accidents

7,502 Injury Accidents

Roadway Departures Leading Accident Type

8 General Aviation Airports,

2 Airports Runway > 5,000'

1,260 miles of railroad— Ten Owners

16 Private River Terminals

One Intermodal Port

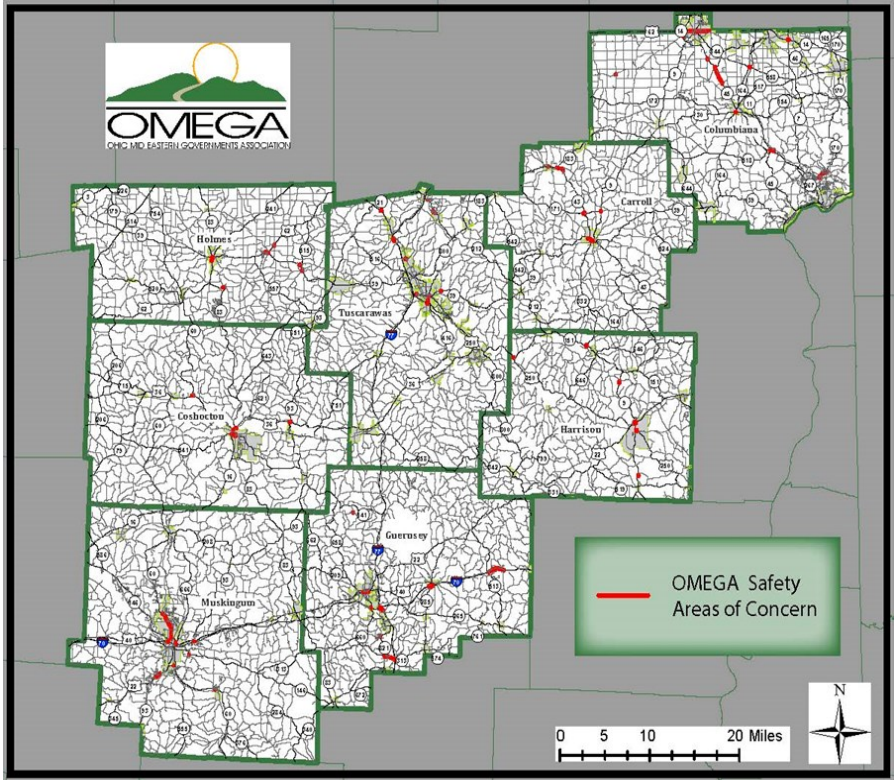
15 Million Tons Shipped

OMEGA staff continued to develop transportation planning expertise by attending a number of conferences and training workshops. Executive Director DiDonato participated in a panel discussion on Challenges in Transportation Planning at the Ohio Planning Conference. Ms. Wierzbicki provided an overview of the RTPO program as related to safety and the mentoring relationship with the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments as part of the Rural Safety Planning Webinar. She also presented an overview of OMEGA's Safety Analysis during the Transportation Safety Planning Session at the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference.

In December, OMEGA was notified by ODOT that the RTPO program will be continued for another two years. A primary focus over the next two year period will be to address the safety concerns in our region by reducing the number and severity of crashes that occur.

OMEGA appreciates the technical assistance provided by the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, our mentoring agency for the RTPO program. With their guidance and technical assistance, we have been

able to complete our work elements as planned. OMEGA is on schedule to complete the Regional Transportation Plan in 2015 and have the plan formally adopted by the Executive Board by June 30, 2015.



The **Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association**, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission, Maumee Valley Planning Organization, and Ohio Department of Transportation received a **2014 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award** from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for their Ohio RTPO Pilot Program. Award Recipients are pictured with Carrie Kissel, NADO Associate Director (right center holding award)