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James Parkway extension impacts will be widespread

Current construction could bring future development

BY KENT MALLETT • ADVOCATE REPORTER • APRIL 3, 2009

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HEATH -- The half-mile extension of James Parkway from Irving Wick Drive to Kaiser Drive might not seem like a big deal, but it's a miniature stimulus project for the area.

ADVERTISEMENT The \$2.9 million road project, funded mostly by the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority with some state money, provides work for a dozen local companies and opens up 70 acres for future development, in addition to improving traffic flow for employees of nearby industries.

It's not part of the government's stimulus program, but the effect is much the same, although on a smaller scale.

"The significance is the vast number of local companies part of making this bridge and roadway project happen," said Rick Platt, executive director of the port authority. "That's the ideal stimulus, and that's what we're doing."

"This is a local economic stimulus. We're not sitting back waiting for the economic storm to end to make capital investment."

The local companies working on the project include general contractor Layton Excavating, Jobes Henderson engineers and surveyors, Armstrong Steel Co. bridge manufacturer and Holophane lighting from the soon-to-be-closed Utica plant.

"These are the kind of projects that keep our company in business," said Jim Roberts, president of Jobes Henderson. "It really is kind of a domino effect. Local projects pretty much keep us rolling."

Jobes Henderson has had designers or surveyors working on the project for close to a year, with about 15 of its 40 employees involved at some point on the road project.

The company has avoided making any layoffs during the recession.

"We have been fairly steady and survived (reasonably) well," Roberts said. "We feel pretty good about things. We certainly haven't been overwhelmed (with work), but we've been hanging on and keeping things going."

Steve Murray, construction manager for Layton Excavating, said there will be 12 to 15 workers on-site every day, weather permitting, until conclusion of the project in mid- to late July. Layton has had employees there since early February.

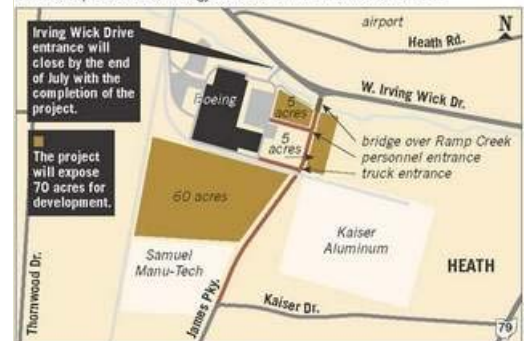
"In these times, it was a big boost to our company to have something right after the first of the year," Murray said. "We had to do early layoffs at the end of August because we didn't have anything to get them to, and, sometimes that happens."

In the construction business, Murray said, employees sometimes are idle through winter and receive unemployment benefits. At Layton, the winter employment can drop to about 10 employees, then reach a summer peak of up to 50.

"It's a big shuffle, a crapshoot at times," Murray said. "We're doing good this year, so far."

JAMES PARKWAY

The \$2.9 million project will extend James Parkway about half a mile from West Irving Wick Drive to Kaiser Drive, making way for future development and providing temporary work for a dozen local companies. The project should be completed by the end of July, completing the connection from Irving Wick Drive to Ohio 79 through two industrial parks: Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center and Mid-Ohio Industrial Park.



LOCAL IMPACT

THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY CALCULATED THAT EVERY \$1 BILLION OF FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES SUPPORTS A TOTAL OF 34,779 JOBS. BASED ON THE FHA ESTIMATE, THE LOCAL PROJECT'S IMPACT WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Project cost:** \$2.8 million
- **Jobs on site:** 26
- **Jobs in construction materials:** 12
- **Other jobs supported by construction:** 39

Source: The American Road and Transportation Builders Association and Matt Hill, planner with the Licking County Area Transportation Study



A construction worker signals his coworkers as he climbs a pile driver while a crew sets a pile into the device Thursday afternoon off Irving Wick Drive in Heath. The piles are for a bridge that is part of the James Parkway extension. (Matthew Berry, The Advocate)

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MADE BY LICKING COUNTY
 FOLLOWING ARE LOCAL COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE ROAD PROJECT:

The long-term goal is for the roadway extension to have a lasting impact, long after the project ends this summer.

Platt said a dozen companies have looked at the 60-acre site south of Boeing, but building the road enhances the site, where utilities also are available.

"This is the final piece, getting the road in," Platt said. "It just means now we're more competitive. We know if we don't have these things, we're not as frequently in the hunt."

The Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center site, managed by the port authority, has about 950 employees at 18 companies, including Boeing, Samuel Manu-Tech, Kaiser Aluminum, Honeywell and Bionetics.

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- Layton Excavating, of Newark, general contractor
 - Jobs Henderson, of Newark, consulting engineers and surveying
 - Holophane, of Utica, bridge and street lighting manufactured at Utica facility that is closing soon
 - Armstrong Steel Co., of Newark, bridge construction subcontractor
 - Triple "H" Enterprises, of Newark, parking lot striping
 - Bowden Construction, of Newark, site lighting
 - The Shelly Co., of St. Louisville, asphalt paving, materials from local plant
 - United Precast, of Mount Vernon, bridge precast structures, employs Licking County residents
 - The Olen Co., of St. Louisville, gravel materials
 - Buckeye Concrete Products, of Newark, concrete products
 - Top Cat Concrete, of Buckeye Lake, concrete
 - Redskin Transport, of St. Louisville, limestone materials
- Source: Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Road extension.** James Parkway extended 3,000 feet north from Kaiser Drive to West Irving Wick Drive, completing the connection from Irving Wick to Ohio 79 through two industrial parks -- the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center and Mid-Ohio Industrial Park.
 - **New entrances.** The easternmost Irving Wick Drive entrance to COATC will be closed, with the extended James Parkway connecting to Irving Wick at a bridge over Ramp Creek. An employee entrance and a truck entrance to The Base will be created off the new road.
 - **Development sites.** Three potential development sites will be enhanced by the new road and extension of sewer service. On both sides of the extended road are 5-acre sites. A 60-acre site lies south of Boeing.
 - **Parking lot.** The parking area will be reconfigured for the east side of The Base, including a new motorcycle and bicycle lot.
 - **Bike trail.** A new path will be added along the extended James Parkway, connecting to the existing COATC path just south of Boeing, allowing for a possible future connection at Irving Wick to the city's bike path system.
- Source: Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

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