



# July 9, 2009 ChamberWatch

YOUR BUSINESS SOURCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY



A Publication of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce ~ 1 Chamber Plaza, Dayton, OH 45402-2400 ~ 937-226-1444 ~ www.daytonchamber.org

### 3-C Rail Corridor Stakeholders Meeting

This week the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce participated in a 3-C (&D) Rail Corridor stakeholders meeting that was hosted by the Ohio Rail Development Commission in Columbus, Ohio. Meeting attendees learned of recent develops and challenges surrounding Governor Strickland's proposed 3-C Rail Corridor. The Dayton Chamber recently endorsed Governor Strickland's efforts to seek \$270 in federal stimulus funding to support the development of 79 mph conventional speed rail corridor. The Chamber's endorsement of this effort included the following provisions to be considered for the Governor's passenger rail development plan:

- This must be a step toward high speed rail and linkages to major metropolitan destinations outside of Ohio.
- Rail improvements for rail freight distribution.
- Concern over how the \$10 million in annual sustainability will be met without additional burdens placed on the business community.

The Chamber continues to work closely with Governor Strickland's rail advisors and the Ohio Rail Development Commission on the procurement of funds and ultimate implementation of the 3-C (&D) Rail Corridor.

A preliminary map has been designed by Amtrak that links the 3-C Rail Corridor from, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton to Cincinnati. Additionally, from Dayton there are proposed linkages to Chicago and Pittsburgh. Gov. Strickland's application to achieve \$270 in federal stimulus support is due to the federal government by October 2, 2009. If funds are achieved, there will be an initial two year quick start program initiated that will develop the 79 mph passenger rail corridor, with high speed being developed in approximately 6 years.

Current debate regarding the 3-C Rail Corridor is focused on whether service should be metro-metro service or should be a commuter rail service that has multiple stops between metropolitan areas. A compromise that includes some commuting service with efficient metro-metro service will most likely be achieved in the next few months. The Dayton Chamber is working closely with the Governor's office to ensure the most beneficial and efficient rail development is planned and designed for the Dayton area business community.

### 2009 Dayton Workplace Diversity Award Deadline July 31!

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, along with our partner NCCJ is proud to announce that we are currently accepting applications for the 2009 Dayton Workplace Diversity Award. The award will be given to area companies that invest in workplace diversity. Awards will go to companies of under 500 employees and those over 500 employees. For more information or for an application contact Roberta Walker at 937.226.8258 or [rwalker@dacc.org](mailto:rwalker@dacc.org)

### Governor , Ohio Legislature at an Impasse Over State Budget

Governor Strickland approved a second interim budget on Tuesday as the stalemate continued over his plan to fill the projected \$ 3.2 billion state budget gap, in part, with proceeds from a proposal to install lottery-operated slot machines at horse racetracks. Months of budget discussions between the Governor and the Ohio legislature have stalled on this final point, with neither side appearing to be willing to compromise from their disparate positions on the slot-machine issue.

Chamber staff has been closely monitoring the budget debates and has advocated on behalf of several key initiatives vital to the region's business community, including continued funding for STEM education initiatives and economic development incentive funding.

### Chamber Conducts Business Conditions Survey 2009

Due to the rapidly changing business environment and the increased number of new support programs and funding sources now being offered by federal and state governments, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce would like to learn more about our local company's needs and concerns within the Dayton region using this Business Conditions Survey. This survey is comprised of only 12 questions and should take no more than 5 to 10 minutes to complete. A summary of the aggregate results will be featured in future chamber publications and all individual information will be held in highest confidentiality. If you elect to provide contact information at the conclusion of this survey a member of the DACC Retention and Expansion team may contact you should the survey results indicate a need for assistance.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=lGc4BX3bsf9\\_2bcYUA1i2vCg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=lGc4BX3bsf9_2bcYUA1i2vCg_3d_3d)

### Chamber Supports Amendment to HB 15: BWC Budget

The Dayton Chamber recently supported an amendment to HB 15 proposed by Senator Buehrer. This amendment would have made permanent the Safety Council Incentive Program, which is currently subject to yearly renewal by the BWC. In addition, the amendment also allowed for the stacking of discount programs, including the Drug-Free Workplace discount, the Safety Incentive Program discount and the Group Rating program. Though passed by both the House and Senate, this amendment was ultimately vetoed by Governor Strickland last week, who stated that the provisions "threaten the integrity and autonomy of the BWC Board of Directors." The Dayton Chamber will continue to advocate on behalf of programs that support workplace safety in Ohio.

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