

# T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

Belmont County can help reduce transportation costs through easy access to water, rail, roadways and air. Currently, the State of Ohio is operating its' first long-range, multi-modal transportation plan known as ACCESS OHIO. Through this plan, the quality of the systems in place will be maintained or improved and greater access to the various forms of transportation will be developed.

## *In ONE day in Ohio transportation:*

- 7.5 million drivers will drive 254 million miles on the  9<sup>th</sup> largest highway system (I-70) in the nation.
- 36,700 passengers will board aircraft at 8 major airports.
- 449,300 people will use public transit on 57 systems.
- 303,800 tons of cargo will be shipped by water.
- 647,400 tons of cargo will travel by rail.
- 805,600 tons will be carried by truck.

## WATER

The Ohio River is part of the 7,000 mile Mississippi River system stretching from the nation's heartland to the Gulf of Mexico. Belmont County is within 85 miles of the end of the 1,000 mile Ohio River and 60 miles (over land) of the Port of Pittsburgh. The Ohio River remains a major transportation route for cargo, especially coal. Bellaire Marine Service provides barge line service, with other firms offering service from Pittsburgh, PA and Parkersburg, WV. Most businesses using barge transportation in the area maintain their own docking and loading facilities.

## *Ohio River Assets . . .*

- The nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> most prominent inland waterway.
- The Ohio River in Belmont County has grown nearly  \$1 billion in investment returns in the past decade.
- The "Ohio River" is a key element in the county's  overall asset list.
- Ohio's inland waterway network has an investment  exceeding multi-billions.
- Increased commodities transport role and the Ohio  River with its multi-model interconnectivity to the  nation's heartland with worldwide markets which are  extremely important to the success of Belmont County.

## RAIL

Conrail is the major rail system serving the New England and Middle Atlantic from Boston to Washington D.C. It runs the full length of Belmont County along the river from Yorkville to Powhatan Point. Three principal Conrail routes are within a few hours time of Columbus, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. It maintains: Steelnet terminals in Cleveland, OH and Ambridge, PA (near

Pittsburgh); lumber transfer and distribution centers in Ambridge; Trailvan terminals in Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo and Pittsburgh; and Flexi-flo terminals for rail-truck transfer of liquid and dry bulk commodities in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Conrail serves export coal terminals in Ashtabula and Cleveland. It serves customers in seven major commodity groups: automotive (new vehicles and parts); coal, coke and iron ore; food and agriculture; inter-modal (trailers and containers on flatcars); forest and manufactured products; metals; petrochemicals and minerals. As a leading rail inter-modal carrier, Conrail moves a variety of high-value manufactured goods to one of the largest consumer markets in the world. Conrail's high speed inter-modal service meets the time sensitive, premium service needs of corporations as diverse as auto manufacturers, apparel importers and the United Parcel Service.

The Wheeling and Lake Erie (WLE) Railroad Company operates 800 miles of track in the states of MD, OH, PA and WV. The WLE serves destinations throughout the United States via connections with Conrail, CSXT and Norfolk Southern. WLE has access to the 25,000 mile inland waterway system via four river docks in OH and PA, two of which are located in Bellaire, OH in Belmont County. Access to the Great Lakes vessel routes is available at WLE Great Lakes Dock at Huron, OH. Interchange with motor carriers takes place at several points on the WLE including a bulk transfer terminal in Pittsburgh, PA and a state of the art inter-modal facility near Canton, OH.

In addition, CSX Transportation services the Wheeling Area and maintains facilities for barge and truck services.

## ROADWAYS

Interstate 70, complemented by Interstate 470, provide the major east-west highway routes. Traffic can join Interstate 70 approximately 28 miles to the west at Interstate 79 approximately 30 miles to the east for access to areas north and south. Ohio Route 7, running alongside the Ohio River, also serves as a major north-south access road. In addition, U.S. Routes 40 (National Road) and 250 and State Routes 147, 148, 149, and 331 cross Belmont County east and west, and State Routes 9 and 800 run north and south.

Over 30 motor freight companies operate in the Belmont County/Wheeling area with approximately 10 of those terminals in Belmont County. These carriers offer a breadth of services including transport of chemicals or hazardous materials, dry bulk, refrigerated freight and general commodities. Flatbed services are also available. Daily traffic can be provided to many cities with direct service to all 48 contiguous states, Canada and Mexico.

