

City of Streetsboro

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Economic Development Dept.
Patrick O'Malia, Director



555 Frost Road
Streetsboro, OH 44241
330-626-4942 ext. 4104
pomalialia@cityofstreetsboro.com

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RE: Notice of Intent to Participate in Oral Argument – Docket # FD 36496

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Streetsboro, Ohio is primarily a rural community with a strong industrial base and is considered a far-flung suburb of Akron. With a population of approximately 16,500 residents spread out over 25 square miles, Streetsboro imports a majority of its workforce from across Northeast Ohio to work in our 85 buildings in our industrial parks. Streetsboro regularly draws more than 8,000 workers per day into the city because it has the good fortune of being situated at the eastern terminus of Interstate 480 and has the state's 5th busiest interchange on the Ohio Turnpike (I-80). In terms of intra-state traffic (as opposed to those who may be just driving through the state) the Streetsboro Ohio Turnpike exit is the 2nd busiest in the state. Streetsboro is in an enviable position given its proximity to this asset and regularly draws labor not only from the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) but the Cleveland – Elyria - Mentor MSA as well as the Canton – Massillon and Youngstown – Warren – Boardman MSA.

The economic base of Streetsboro is primarily made up of plastic and metal fabrication and includes well-known names like Step2 (children's plastic toy maker), Sealed Air (plastic bags), Berry Plastics (food grade plastics), International Paper (cardboard), L'Oreal (beauty products), Permco (hydraulic pumps), Bulten, Waltco and Viking Forge (metal fabrication). Streetsboro has recently secured a number of foreign direct investments from Sweden, Finland, Germany and Ireland. Though the city's industrial base is strong and growing, the wage rates for manufacturing positions is stagnant, though relative to private sector competitors, still above average. In today's marketplace, confidence in the industrial sector is high with a PMI rating of 58.8 in December, 2021, signaling increased appetite for expansion. Given higher than average pay and PMI ratings, the only thing holding Streetsboro back from unlocking its true economic potential is increasing its ability to attract labor force to man positions on the factory floor.

It is the understanding of the Economic Development Department that if funds earmarked for Amtrak to create a new intercity passenger service from Mobile, AL to New Orleans, LA were not used, given the reluctance of NSR and CSX to travel on their rail lines, that additional funding could possibly flow to the State of Ohio to explore a line between Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. Streetsboro would undoubtedly benefit from this arrangement as it would open up the opportunity to import additional bodies to our factories. Given this understanding, the Economic Development Director of Streetsboro, in his individual capacity supports the position of CSX and NSR and respectfully requests that the STB considers diverting these dollars to community's who would actively work to expand their economic opportunities.

- Patrick O'Malia
Economic Development Director, City of Streetsboro