

Alum Creek Drive/Groveport Road Upgrades Starting Soon

On average, more than 41,000 trucks and automobiles travel through the intersection of Alum Creek Drive and Groveport Road each day. At this key Rickenbacker-area intersection, construction will soon begin on the second phase of improvements aimed to ease congestion and prepare the roadway for future, increased traffic.

The \$15 million project will entail construction of two roundabouts on Groveport Road – one east and one west of the Alum Creek Drive and Groveport Road intersection – that are connected by a flyover bridge or overpass that will allow traffic to move more efficiently. This setup is expected to be the first of its kind in Central Ohio.



Photo courtesy of the Franklin County Engineer and The Columbus Dispatch

"Not only are we helping to alleviate current congestion issues at this vital trucking crossroads, but we are enhancing the potential of the roadway and our ability to grow the logistics industry in Central Ohio," said Kenny McDonald, Chief Economic Officer at Columbus2020!.

Coordinated by the Franklin County Engineer's office, construction is set to begin in March 2012 and run through November 2013. After the project is complete, the area will be able to handle about 73,000 vehicles per day. It's estimated that a trip through the new interchange will be, on average, about four minutes faster than waiting at a traffic light.

This is the second of two phases of improvements to the area, where the first phase involved creating new through lanes northbound and southbound on Alum Creek Drive. This first phase was completed in 2011.

Multiple agencies have partnered to fund the infrastructure improvements including the state of Ohio, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Franklin County and the Village of Obetz as well as funds from private companies in the area.

Part of Second Street Closed



Second Street is now permanently closed to the public from west of Reserve Road to east of Rickenbacker Parkway to make way for construction of a new access gate for Rickenbacker's military units.

The closure does not hinder access to the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's administrative buildings or the 590 series hangar. It does eliminate a short cut used by some travelers near the airport and will change the point of access to military base areas. When construction is complete, a new military access gate will be located at the western end of Second Street.

Superior Logistics Expands to Rickenbacker

Bringing their international airfreight operations and Ablaze Transportation road feeder network to Central Ohio is the team from [Superior Logistics](#), who recently became the newest business to locate in the Rickenbacker area.



The veteran third-party logistics provider with headquarters in Illinois opened its doors at 2566 Jerrie Mock Avenue in Columbus in early December. Currently, the airside Rickenbacker location has 35 full-and part-time employees with plans for personnel expansion as volume grows in the coming years.

"Finding a good fit – a location where we can meet the market demands of our clients – was a crucial component of our decision to come to Rickenbacker," said [Jeff Bruner](#), Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Superior Logistics. "We enjoy the access the area offers and we have expectations of growth in the future."

According to Jeff, Superior will be focusing on its mainstay – international airfreight and all that accompanies it. Superior specializes in import deconsolidation, the process of breaking down bulk international shipments into multiple outbound shipments for final inland delivery. The company also brings to Rickenbacker their subsidiary, Ablaze Transportation Inc., which serves the landside operation of freight transfer, pickup and delivery.

In addition to the Rickenbacker location, Superior Logistics operates an office in Franklin Park, Illinois.

LCK Added as an Alternate Airport for 747-8s

Rickenbacker International Airport is prepared to serve the world's largest, most efficient cargo aircraft. With the necessary runway infrastructure in place, LCK has been cleared to serve as an alternate airport for Boeing's new 747-8.

"We are pleased to be among a select group of airports with this capacity," said Charlie Goodwin, Director of Airport Operations at the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, operator of Rickenbacker International Airport.

The 747-8 is 18.3 feet longer as well as 13 feet wider in wingspan than current 747 models and is considered to be more efficient due to its increased payload while reducing fuel, noise and emissions. A small quantity of the aircraft is in use, with air carrier Cargolux landing the first commercial flight into the U.S. on Nov. 23, 2011.

Four Lanes Open on Rickenbacker Parkway



A milestone was recently reached with the opening of a three-mile stretch of Rickenbacker Parkway to accommodate four lanes of traffic. Images of the newly widened roadway can be found on the [Rickenbacker Area Facebook page](#).

The expansion allows for better truck movement in the area surrounding the airport, including freight routed between Norfolk-Southern Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility and nearby interstates. In this recently completed phase, Rickenbacker Parkway was widened from Lockbourne Eastern to Second Street.

An upcoming phase, set to begin in late 2012 or early 2013, extends the four-lane parkway an additional mile from Second Street through the intersection at Alum Creek Drive up to SR-317 to create a continuous north-south traffic flow. Lane widening and pavement resurfacing will also occur along SR-317 east and west of Alum Creek Drive and on Alum Creek Drive north of SR-317. Additional improvements will include street lighting, signal replacement, sidewalks and a shared-use path.

Emergency, On-the-Job Services Available at Hometown Urgent Care & Occupational Health Center

Rickenbacker area companies need look no further than their backyard to find business healthcare services. Located at 3813 S. Hamilton Road in Groveport, Hometown Urgent Care & Occupational Health Center is a neighborhood resource that is open seven days a week with late evening and weekend hours of service.



In emergency situations, the center helps area employers reach affordable medical attention in place of a trip to the emergency room. Employers enrolled in the center's WorkCare program are guaranteed patient service within 30 minutes of arriving at the center.

Hometown also touts a strong return-to-work program for Workers' Compensation-related injuries and competitively priced and customizable occupational health programs.

For more information, contact [Tony Dial](#), Regional Marketing Manager at Hometown Urgent Care & Occupational Health Center, at 614-947-9235, visit HometownUrgentCare.com or connect with

them on [LinkedIn](#).

LogisticsART Providing Tailored Training for Area Businesses

The [LogisticsART program](#) offered by Columbus State Community College is helping area businesses find the workers they need. The program, funded by a \$4.6 million U.S. Department of Labor grant, regularly trains dislocated workers and unemployed individuals as well as veterans for entry to mid-level positions within warehouse, distribution and other logistics-related fields.



The program was recently called upon to help MidWest Express Inc., a Marysville-area logistics supplier to the automotive industry, staff up. With assistance from LogisticsART, MidWest Express is adding 242 new Ohio jobs and is now the third largest employer in Logan County.

"Program participants receive three weeks of training in logistics industry basics and modern technology including Warehouse Management System, RF scanning and forklifts," explained Leneé Pezzano, LogisticsART Supervisor. "Businesses such as MidWest Express can become involved at no cost and receive immediate access to a pool of candidates whose skills are tailored to meet their needs."

Additional training topics include resume writing, behavioral interviewing and customer service. Participants also have the opportunity to obtain a national certification as a Certified Logistics Associate through the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council.

To learn more, contact [Leneé Pezzano](#) at 614-287-5613. Program updates and additional information also can be found on the [LogisticsART Facebook page](#).

Southeastern Franklin County Chamber Business Expo on January 27

[Southeastern Franklin County Chamber of Commerce](#) along with the Village of Obetz and City of Groveport invite area businesses to participate in the 2012 Business Expo on January 27 at Berwick Manor, 3250 Refugee Road, Columbus, from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Last year's Expo topped 650 attendees. The annual dinner for businesses participating in the event will occur following the expo.

Area businesses are welcome to promote their services and products at the event. The expo is



designed for businesses to gain exposure in the community among residents and to network with other businesses.

Contact [Heather Bolin](#), Executive Director of the Southeastern Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, at 614-834-7700 for vendor and sponsorship information.

Join Us for a Logistics Job Fair on March 20

You're invited to take part in a logistics industry job fair on Tuesday, March 20. If your business is hiring or expanding, join us at Columbus State Community College for this exciting event hosted by the [Columbus Region Logistics Council](#).

The job fair will be held in the [Center for Workforce Development at Columbus State](#) and is free to companies who wish to participate. Set up begins at 8 a.m. with attendees on hand from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For more information or to participate, contact [Jeff Brashares](#), event coordinator and Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at TTS LLC.

Rickenbacker Marines' Toys for Tots a Success

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots, a national initiative with a local campaign organized at Rickenbacker, successfully assisted local families in need last month. The Marines collected new toys and monetary donations for its annual toy drive and distributed them to more than 6,000 families in the Columbus area.



"We enjoy organizing the annual event at Rickenbacker and being a part of the community by helping those in need," said Staff Sergeant Marshall Brown, a Toys for Tots Local Coordinating Officer. "Our goal is to help as many families as possible while maintaining a safe and organized environment and we have proudly accomplished this for the past seven years."

The primary goal of the Toys for Tots program is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to children that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

