

## ***GREAT shuttle service coming to Rickenbacker in October***

The hundreds of employees in the Rickenbacker area who count on public transportation to get to and from work will soon enjoy a new shuttle service that will allow them to get to work safer and more efficiently, providing the access businesses need to hire and retain quality talent.

The shuttle service, provided by Parking Solutions, Inc., will work in cooperation with COTA's #81 line by picking up passengers at the existing bus stops and dropping them off closer to their places of business within the industrial parks. There will be three shuttle routes, all running every 30 minutes Monday through Friday and every hour on Saturday and Sunday.

"We have tremendous partners in this effort," said Bob Dowler, Director of Transportation for the City of Groveport. "COTA, The Village of Obetz, Parking Solutions, Inc. (PSI) and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) have been instrumental in getting this program launched as soon as possible. They are also helping us find grant funding to support this effort."

The Groveport Rickenbacker Employee Access Transit (GREAT) program was created by the City of Groveport in response to area businesses having difficulty filling open positions with quality employees because transportation needs in the area are greater than what was available.

Data from COTA shows there are more than 530 passenger drop-offs and pick-ups from #81 line between Toy Road and London-Groveport Road as a weekday average. In another boost for employee access, COTA is extending their hours and increasing frequency of this route on Sept. 7.



The service is set to launch the first week of October. For more information, contact [Bob Dowler](#).

## **Community collaboration leads to a new air cargo terminal at Rickenbacker**



In support of the phenomenal growth in international freighter traffic that Rickenbacker International Airport has experienced in the last few years, several public and private partners have come together to build a new 100,000 square foot air cargo terminal in a prime airside location. This is the first phase of a 25-acre development offering efficient on-ramp freighter terminal space.

"The community's continued support of Rickenbacker and the common goal of strengthening the region's logistics industry is what made this deal possible," said David Whitaker, Vice President of Business Development & Communications for Rickenbacker. **"Tenants will enjoy an unparalleled ability to expedite the**

**transfer of cargo between airplanes and trucks, saving time and money in their supply chains."**

The new air cargo facility will be built on land that the Columbus Regional Airport Authority has leased to Distribution Land Corp. (DLC), a subsidiary of Mast Global. DLC will construct the facility and lease the space to companies looking to advance the speed of their businesses. The State of Ohio, JobsOhio and City of Columbus join DLC and the Airport Authority in funding construction of the new cargo terminal and related airport infrastructure.

The new terminal is scheduled to open in mid-2016.

## ***BASF selects Rickenbacker for new regional distribution center***



Capitalizing on a premier real estate location between cargo-dedicated Rickenbacker International Airport and the Norfolk Southern Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal, BASF Corp. is working with Columbus Regional Airport Authority and Duke Realty to develop a 421,200 square foot facility in the Rickenbacker Global Logistics Park that will serve as its new regional distribution center.

**BASF Corp., the world's largest producer of chemicals and related products, plans to bring 48 new jobs to the facility that is scheduled to open in early 2016.**

"Because Rickenbacker is located within a one-day truck drive to nearly 50 percent of the U.S. population and one-third of the Canadian population, it is attractive to companies seeking to optimize their delivery capabilities and efficiencies in their supply chains," said Robin Holderman, Chief Development Officer with the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. "Ease of freight movement and geographic reach are key benefits found within the Rickenbacker area that larger, more congested or landlocked ports just cannot provide. BASF will also take advantage of a pre-permitted overweight roadway that will allow them to fill containers to capacity."

## ***Norfolk Southern plans expansion at Rickenbacker***

After just seven years of operation, Norfolk Southern Corp. wants to expand its capacity by 40 percent at the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal to better serve their world-wide customers moving goods through the Columbus Region.

Currently supporting about 210,000 lifts a year, the yard is nearing capacity. **The \$34 million expansion of its transportation hub would allow for 300,000 lifts**

**a year and eventually the yard could be expanded further to support 400,000 annual lifts.**

Columbus Regional Airport Authority is supporting the rail company's application for a \$17 million federal matching grant for the proposed project, which would lengthen the service tracks and add trailer parking spots and a crane. The railway noted in its grant application that the expansion is needed to keep up with Central Ohio's robust logistics and warehousing sector and growth of major companies.



## ***Community Partners helps kids prepare for school***



Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Community Partners of Southern Franklin County, 250 kids were given backpacks and school supplies that otherwise their families couldn't afford.

"This is the second year we have taken on this project ourselves and it has already grown substantially," said Vince Payne, President of Community Partners. **"Last year we gave away 200 backpacks with supplies and this year we raised the funds to give out 250. We believe next year will be even more successful."**

Donations were given to children entering grades K - 3 at Hamilton Township Elementary School. Learn more about [Community Partners on Facebook](#).