

BLUEPRINT FOR OHIO



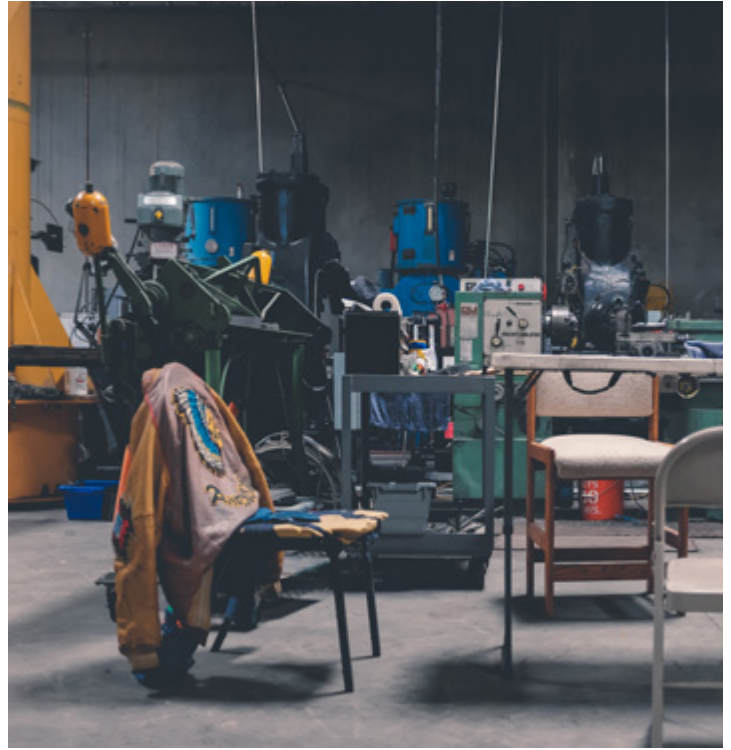
Ohio's Manufacturing

Ohio Manufacturers would benefit enormously if Ohio implemented a long term transportation policy focused on creating a state-wide or even regional-wide mass transit system.

A new transit grid, using a mixture of high speed rail and slower light rail routes, could connect small communities with the larger cities across the state and possibly major metropolises farther afield. Components such as rails, cars, station platforms and power generation could be constructed and distributed right here in Ohio. New manufacturing facilities coming on line could even use converted older facilities now littering Ohio's landscape.

There is demand for mass transit in Ohio, particularly in Columbus. Columbus and outlying communities and cities could use a light-rail network, all above-ground, that would greatly alleviate traffic congestion and encourage future growth.

Ohio once had a regional passenger rail service known as the Inter-Urban. This service connected many of Ohio's medium and larger-sized cities like



Akron, Columbus and Mansfield with towns like Marion, Lancaster and Delaware. Rail, both freight and passenger is still a vital part of the triad of transportation, consisting of airports and highways, that any advanced economy requires.

The 2015 Tri-State Shale Agreement has enabled chemical manufacturers to begin building state of the art facilities closer to the source rather than transport these same materials by rail, truck or pipeline thousands of miles away to the Gulf. There is much to be done before Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania becomes like Texas and that's why pipelines are already crisscrossing Ohio but the Houston hurricane disaster showcased how fragile the industry can become by having so many facilities located in one vulnerable place.

We encourage lawmakers and the public to support legislation that implements an ambitious infrastructure plan of action utilizing a long-term energy policy to fuel its growth that could spawn significant manufacturing capability in Ohio for years to come.