

We need to fix our roads, add new infrastructure to boot



Phillip L. Parker
CAE, CCE President & CEO

I don't know about you, but these Ohio potholes created by our freeze-and-thaw this past fall and winter are driving me crazy and killing my 9-year-old Suburban. But what are we going to do about it before it gets even worse? A reminder came in an article written in the Dayton Daily News on Valentine's Day about our roads. So were those potholes described in the article supposed to be my Valentine's Day present? Well, I don't think so.

Right now, smart people are meeting to discuss how Ohio can continue to meet its obligations of providing adequate roads and bridges to the public and rebuilding old infrastructure plus considering new development in our hope to retain and attract new jobs and the matching talent needs to Ohio.

I have some real concerns about how to fund this fairly, but here are a

few important data points that affect Ohio's needs and uses. Did you know:

- Ohio has the fourth-largest interstate system in the nation with more than 8,000 interstate miles of highway. The Ohio Department of Transportation is also responsible to maintain more than 43,000 miles of U.S. and state routes outside of municipalities.

- Varied vehicles and users travel 90-plus million miles daily. Ohio has the second-largest inventory of bridges in the nation that must be maintained.

- Ohio supports the third-highest freight volume in the U.S. due to our manufacturing sector needs and vehicles passing through our state.

Currently funding has dwindled to a point of not keeping up with inflationary costs of construction. Our funding mechanism is threefold: 1. A state tax on fuel of 28 cents per gallon; 2. Federal resources that come back under a matching situation; and 3. Partnering with local governments on shared priority projects.

Surrounding states use a similar model. But Michigan charges 44.1 cents per

gallon; Pennsylvania adds 58.7 cents per gallon; Indiana charges 42.9 cents per gallon; and only Kentucky, at 26.0 cents per gallon, is lower than Ohio. Ohio's overall usage is higher in most categories compared to these other states.

So what is to be done? Well, no one likes to talk about adding more user-fee taxes even when we are experiencing gas prices at less than \$2.50 per gallon, but to tax everybody a new income tax does not seem fair, either.

A group called FOR OHIO Fix Our Roads is convening a number of thought leaders on this subject. Here are my five questions they must answer if they are to get it right:

1. What is the best and fairest way to ask Ohio drivers, private and commercial, to fund the maintenance and new construction of our roads?
2. Do we want to compete in attracting companies and jobs by adding new or improving existing roads and bridges infrastructure? If so, how will this be funded?
3. How do alternative-fuel vehicles and users pay their fair share?
4. Revenues are down,

partially because cars and trucks are more energy-efficient and use less fuel, but they still travel our roads. How do we treat the user of the future?

5. Finally, how do non-Ohioans pay for the privilege of using our highways and interstates? Is there a different model for them to pay their share?

So much needs to be done in the months ahead. It will take a lot of political courage to get there. We haven't changed anything in Ohio since 2005 - some 14 years ago - and it has only gotten worse. Much usage has changed since then.

I want to be at the table to challenge our elected leaders as to how we move forward. The worst-case scenario is to do nothing that would not even maintain the safety conditions of what we already own.

No action would lead to more potholes, damages, accidents or God forbid, even fatalities.

This column started with me complaining about the potholes going unrepaired and I'm tired of it. Who is going to fix your tire or car damage? Maybe I'll have a conversation with my elected officials about that. You should, too.

BUSINESS AWARDS

Washington Township's Rec West Enrichment Center for Senior Adults has earned the Annual Award for Innovation in Local Government from the Ohio City/County Management Association. The award recognizes creativity, excellence and cutting-edge organizational tools in the delivery of public services.

This marks the second statewide award for the Rec West Enrichment Center, which earned a first place Award of Excellence in Management Innovation from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association earlier this year.

After learning in 2015 that the nonprofit Hithergreen Senior Center was preparing to close its doors, the Washington Township Recreation Department established a new home for senior adult programming in renovated space at Rec West on the township's recreation campus. Voters last year approved the first levy increase in the 30-year history of the recreation department, in part to support the successful transition of senior programming.

The Rec West Enrichment Center, 965 Miamisburg-Centerville Road, provides physical, cultural and social enrichment for adults 55 and older.

Buckingham Financial Group is pleased to announce,



Steiner

Lance Steiner, received designation as a Certified Financial Planner™, which is

awarded to financial professionals who have met the education and testing requirements of the CFP® Board. This certification acknowledges Steiner has completed extensive training and experience requirements and is held to rigorous ethical financial planning standards. The CFP® Certification Examination covers the following areas: the financial planning process, risk management, investments, tax planning and management, retirement and employee benefits, and estate planning.

Mike's Carwash was recently named as one of the 2019 Best Employers in Ohio. The annual list of Best Employers in the state was created by the Ohio SHRM State Council and Best Companies Group.

The statewide survey and awards program are designed to identify, recognize and honor the best places of employment in Ohio, benefiting the state's economy, its workforce and businesses.

The 2019 Best Employers of Ohio list is made up of 41 companies. This year's award marks the sixth consecutive year Mike's has earned the distinction.

Companies from across

the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Employers of Ohio. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 25 percent of the total evaluation.

The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. This part of the process was worth 75 percent of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final rankings.

Dayton Freight Lines, Inc., a leading provider of regional less-than-truckload (LTL) transportation services, was recently honored by The Hillman Group and R2 Logistics.

Dayton Freight was named the 2018 U.S. Carrier of the Year by The Hillman Group and the 2018 LTL Carrier of the Year by R2 Logistics. This is the first time Dayton Freight has been honored by these prestigious companies.

The Hillman Group recognized Dayton Freight for on-time service, invoice accuracy, claims, shipment quality, customer service and management support. They are the leading North American provider of complete hardware solutions.

The R2 Logistics award was given based on the following criteria: revenue growth, on-time service, claim processing, invoice accuracy and ease of doing business. They are a third-party logistics company and work with thousands of transportation providers nationwide.

Pickrel, Schaeffer & Ebeling, Co., LPA has announced that attorney **Michael Sandner** was honored by the National

Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) as the recipient of the "Skip" Lowe Memorial Award. The award was presented to Sandner at the Chapter's Annual Contractor of the Year Awards dinner in recognition of his long-standing service, and his commitment to insuring that the remodelers are always made aware and kept abreast of legal issues affecting their work and industry. NARI is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated exclusively to serving the professional remodeling industry and to serve as an ally to area homeowners.

Mike has been with the firm for 25 years and is current president of Pickrel, Schaeffer and Ebeling and a shareholder in the Firm's Litigation Department. He concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial, construction, consumer and civil litigation.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for all events at DaytonChamber.org.

THE NEW SALES FRONTIER – DISCOVER THE POWER OF ENGAGEMENT

Feb. 27, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Montgomery County Business Solutions Center, 1435 Cincinnati St., Dayton

GENERATION DAYTON SPEAKER SERIES:

Feb. 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dublin Pub, 300 Wayne Ave., Dayton. Speaker: Ryan Hawk, host, Learning Leader Show podcast

GENERATION DAYTON MEMBERSHIP 101:

March 5, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dayton Beer Company, 41 Madison St., Dayton

EMPOWER INFORMATION BREAKFAST:

March 11, 7:15 to 9 a.m., Dayton Club, 40 N. Main St., Dayton. Topic: Learn about the chamber's program designed especially for women business leaders

SAFETY BREAKFAST WITH THE EXPERTS:

March 21, 7:30 to 9 a.m.,

Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 E. Fifth St., Dayton. Topic: Emergency Action Plans and Preparedness

HUMAN RESOURCES FORUM:

March 27, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 E. Fifth St., Dayton. Topics: Generational Synergy in the Workplace, Legal Hot Topics, Creating an Engaged Culture

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Sales Tax Collections

County	Current Rate	Oct 2018	Oct 2017	12 Mos Change	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD Change
Butler	0.75%	\$ 3,530,596	\$ 3,493,549	1.06%	\$ 35,941,593	\$ 36,712,699	-2.10%
Clark	1.50%	\$ 1,965,976	\$ 1,970,475	-0.23%	\$ 19,463,237	\$ 21,417,632	-9.13%
Darke	1.50%	\$ 758,557	\$ 735,988	3.07%	\$ 7,325,745	\$ 7,514,429	-2.51%
Greene	1.00%	\$ 2,264,331	\$ 2,179,938	3.87%	\$ 22,590,449	\$ 22,774,941	-0.81%
Miami	1.25%	\$ 1,406,803	\$ 1,448,402	-2.87%	\$ 15,077,389	\$ 15,267,150	-1.24%
Montgomery	1.00%	\$ 6,574,639	\$ 6,226,932	5.58%	\$ 64,202,683	\$ 67,998,060	-5.58%
Poble	1.50%	\$ 488,663	\$ 429,418	13.80%	\$ 4,742,620	\$ 4,855,008	-2.31%
Warren	1.00%	\$ 4,093,309	\$ 3,246,350	26.09%	\$ 41,733,198	\$ 33,764,974	23.60%
Region Total		\$ 21,082,874	\$ 19,731,052	6.85%	\$ 211,076,915	\$ 210,304,892	0.37%

Source: [http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax_analysis/tax_data_series/sales_and_use/publications_tds_sales/\\$1M0918.aspx](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax_analysis/tax_data_series/sales_and_use/publications_tds_sales/$1M0918.aspx)

Residential Home Sales

	Oct '18	Oct '17	%Change	YTD '18	YTD '17	%Change
Number of Homes Sold	1379	1367	0.88%	13902	13775	0.92%
Total Home Sales	\$228,009,113	\$211,468,609	7.82%	\$2,304,484,496	\$2,150,112,912	7.18%
Average Sale Price (\$)	\$165,344	\$154,695	6.88%	\$165,766	\$156,088	6.20%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales for October 2018

Payless

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equity firms Golden Gate Capital and Blum Capital Partners bought Payless in 2012, first announced it would build the 600,000 square-foot Eastern Distribution Center in May 2007.

In addition to jobs, the warehouse added other major financial benefits to the small community

of about 5,900. The city received about \$154,000 in income tax from Payless in 2017, according to council meeting minutes.

Local officials credited the Payless facility for bringing other major projects to the area, including the \$90 million Proctor & Gamble distribution center at the Dayton Airport.

But as brick-and-mortar retail gives way to the rise of online shopping and chang-

ing consumer habits, the casualties have included not only local retail shops but also distribution hubs serving those stores.

When Elder-Beerman's parent company Bon-Ton filed for bankruptcy and closed all of its stores, about 96 people who worked at its Fairborn distribution center lost their jobs.

5. Other places to buy discounted footwear

Payless saw increased competition among a changing retail landscape. Some of its biggest competitors were discount retailers like TJ Maxx, Burlington Coat Factory and Marshalls that sold shoes, along with apparel, home goods and beauty products at lower-than-industry prices.

Contact this reporter at 937-815-5111 or email holly.shively@coxinc.com.



Dayton Freight Lines, Inc. received two national awards, the 2018 U.S. Carrier of the Year by The Hillman Group.



Dayton Freight Lines, Inc. was also named the 2018 LTL Carrier of the Year by R2 Logistics. PHOTOS PROVIDED

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VENDORS LICENSE

- Brown, Toby L., dba No Thanks Landscaping, 658 Rustic Oak Drive, Dayton 45415

- CSH Design Co, dba Speedpro Imaging of Dayton, 779 Crossroads Court, Vandalia 45377

- Lester, Noland Dwight, dba Noland D. Lester Photographic Services, 4062 Brumbaugh Blvd., Trotwood 45416

- Ott, Jeffrey D., dba Miami Dart Supply, 2250 Patterson Road, Kettering 45420

- Phifer, Azia, dba Care Companions LLC, 330 Stubbs Drive, Trotwood 45426

- Plush Paradise, dba, Plush Paradise, 2880 Sage Ave., Dayton 45417

- Vina Sun Co. LLC, dba BP 587, 10 N. Springboro Pike, Dayton 45449

- Young, Albert, dba Al Young Associates, 1304 Richard St., Miamisburg 45342

BUSINESS OPENINGS

Family Dollar Stores, Inc., a leading small format and convenience retailer, has announced plans for a renovated store's grand re-opening in Dayton.

There was a grand re-opening celebration Saturday,

Feb. 23.

Family Dollar stores are open seven days a week and offer everyday items for the entire family in an easy-to-shop neighborhood location. The store is located at 1125 Wayne Avenue.