



VOICE OF BUSINESS

Infrastructure bill: Supporting business



Chris Kershner
President and CEO
Dayton Area Chamber
of Commerce

An efficient transportation and infrastructure network fuels the Dayton region's economy, workforce and the movement of goods for our logistics and manufacturing indus-

tries. This efficient transportation network has long been a point of pride for our community and a unique value proposition that our region has been able to leverage for numerous years.

The I-70/I-75 interchange has been deemed the "Crossroads of America" by the federal government for the strategic advantage it provides for freight delivery. This advantage has resulted in regional access to 60% of the nation's population in a single day's drive and more than a \$2.5 billion annual economic impact on our region.

It is by no accident that the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and our regional business community invest time, resources and influence into ensuring our regional transportation and infrastructure network is continually improved and meeting the needs of our evolving business community. Infrastructure drives economic growth.

Congress recently moved a step closer to passing a bi-partisan infrastructure bill that will provide \$1 trillion in funding for roads and bridges. The legislation, which recently passed the U.S. Senate,

includes renewal of existing transportation spending, \$110 billion for roads and bridges, and \$65 billion for broadband expansion, which is a priority for the Chamber as well.

In April 2021, the Biden administration introduced an infrastructure package and funding proposal with an increase in the corporate tax rate from 21%-28%, a move that gave the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce deep concerns. I appreciate the Federal Administration's retreat of their attack on business and their willingness to negotiate a more equita-

ble solution. The business community is thankful for the efforts of Ohio Senator Rob Portman, who led the charge for a negotiation and compromise. Advancement of this bill without a direct tax increase on the business community is good news for job creators.

The infrastructure bill passed the Senate and is now headed to the House for concurrence. However, the House is signaling they won't concur until the Senate supports a \$3.5 trillion social policy bill. We can't play these games anymore. The Dayton region and our nation's economies need

transportation and infrastructure investments. These public revenues have been paid through our federal fuel taxes, and we need it returned to Ohio to make the right investments for the future of our economic growth. There will be plenty of time for political horse trading on social policies, but now isn't the time to make Ohio's roads a chess piece in your Queen's Gambit.

Chris Kershner is the president and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for all events at DaytonChamber.org.
Virtual: Government Affairs Breakfast with the U.S. Census Bureau, Sept. 2, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Topic — Dive into recently released 2020 Census data. Speaker — Tim Sarko, U.S. Census Bureau
In-person: Dayton Area Logistics Association: Kroger Customer Fulfillment

Center tour, Sept. 7, 3:30-5 p.m. Topic — A look inside Kroger's first automated Customer Fulfillment Center. Location — 6266 Hamilton Lebanon Road, Monroe
In-person: Breakfast Briefing, Sept. 10, 8-9:15 a.m. Topic — An update on the region's only pediatric hospital. Speaker —

Deborah Feldman, president and CEO, Dayton Children's. Location — NCR Country Club, 4435 Dogwood Trail, Kettering.
In-person: Government Affairs Breakfast, Sept. 16, 7:30-9 a.m. Topic — Legislative priorities impacting the Dayton business community. Speaker — Congressman

Mike Turner. Location — Marriott at the University of Dayton, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton
Virtual: Safety Breakfast with the Experts, Sept. 16, 8-9 a.m. Topic — Creating an effective safety program. Speakers — Tammy Jackson, Norwood Medical and Jeremy Stockwell, Shook Construction.

In-person: Generation Dayton Day 2021, Sept. 17, noon to 5 p.m. Topic — Young professionals 'Get Out & Give Back' at area nonprofits. Location — Check-in at Dayton Metro Library, Main Branch, 215 E. Third St., Dayton
In-person: 29th Annual Chamber Challenge Golf Outing, Sept. 29, 10:30

a.m. to 7 p.m. Location — NCR Country Club, 4435 Dogwood Trail, Kettering
In-person: Generation Dayton: Undesign the Red Line, Sept. 23, 4-7 p.m. Topic — A guided tour of Dayton Metro Library's Undesign the Redline exhibit. Location — Dayton Metro Library, Main Branch, 215 E. Third St., Dayton

Venue

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360 view up there," Maria Waymire said.

The facility is built to accommodate up to 300 guests, with spaces for indoor or outdoor ceremonies, catering kitchen, dining, "get-ready" suites, and more. The property also features a wildflower field, which has come to be a favorite location for photos.

The venue planning and opening took a hit from the pandemic, which pushed the Waymires' timeline back by several months.

"We were going to open up a few months earlier, but when we were originally going to go to the county for a permit, that was right when everything closed down, so we froze for a couple months. Then we said that, you know, this was where my passion was and where my heart was, so we just took that leap of faith, prayed about it a lot, and we went for it," Maria said.

Although the process wasn't easy, the Waymires still wanted to be part of helping others celebrate, even in the pandemic.

"It was what we planned, so we just stayed with it, people are still going to get married was our thought. I think the pandemic made some people think even more that life is short, why wait too long for that next step," Maria said.

Groundbreaking began in October, with the venue opening in July.

"It was a lot of planning, and a lot of research, a lot of work, but it's where my heart has been, and you have to do what you love, and that



Maria and Chris Waymire own and operate Ivory Meadows, a new wedding and event venue in Yellow Springs.

was the ultimate point where we said, 'All right, let's close the greenhouse, and let's go forward with this venue,'" Maria said.

The venue will remain open for guests as long as no mandated shutdown happens in accordance with pandemic guidelines, she said.

"COVID is obviously always a question with our contract, with how we handle that, and I say we're open unless the government shuts down. We'll give a free date though, if a wedding date has to be moved because of restrictions," Maria said.

With Ivory Meadows being located in southern Clark County, this has given the Waymires a chance to accommodate weddings and events for residents of Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton, and sometimes as far away as

Piqua or Arcanum.

"It's really an honor to serve people on one of their most important days of their lives, not only to serve them, but to give them a beautiful space," Maria said. "My goal is to have a beautiful space inside and out, I just hope that we can provide this excellent space for people to have their wedding here.

"We strive to give extraordinary service, we think it's important to accommodate the people, and make their day run as smooth as possible."

For more information, visit the Ivory Meadows LLC page on Facebook, or their website at <https://www.ivorymeadowsweddings.com/>.

Contact this reporter at 937-371-0435 or email Tia.Clyburn@coxinc.com.

Remote

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as outside surveys by firms like Eden Workplace.

Among those craving the routines of office life and cubicle chatter: social butterflies, managers, new hires eager to meet colleagues, and people with noisy or crowded homes.

Veronica Polivanaya, an account manager at the public relations firm Inkhouse, quickly realized just how loud San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood could be when she started working from home. There was the distraction of her boyfriend's daily routine — sometimes he got up from his own work to make lunch or get water and ended up in the background of her video calls. Then there were the neighbor's barking dogs. Package deliveries. Construction noise.

"That's been a hard struggle for us," Polivanaya, 30, said. "I feel like I don't have a good space to focus in." She was able to return to the relative quiet of her office for a few days a week starting in July, but she worried that the surging virus could send her back to her hectic work-from-home life.

Certainly, some people have thrived in their new remote work lives. They saved time and money, and sometimes increased productivity. The degree to which employees have embraced permanent remote or hybrid work models has been "stunning" to company executives, said Tzedal Neeley, a Harvard Business School professor who has studied remote

work for decades.

But for others, Neeley said, it has removed needed barriers between work and home life, increased a sense of isolation and led to burnout. "Some people just dislike the screen — their physicality and their proximity to others is a big part of what work looks like," she said.

Many workers are back in offices already. Just 13% of Americans worked from home at some point in July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated, down from a pandemic peak of 35% in May 2020. And some workers have said the delta variant has not changed their employers' return-to-office plans.

But an increasing number of high-profile companies, like Hollywood studios, Wall Street banks and Silicon Valley tech giants, have delayed their returns. For the pro-return-to-office crowd, the fits and starts have been excruciating, Neeley said.

"We are in this perpetual state of waiting, and that now has been extended with more uncertainty," she said.

David Pantera, an incoming assistant product marketing manager at Google, said the company had decided to keep the September orientation for him and other new hires a virtual event, as it has been since the beginning of the pandemic. Google's process, known as "Noogler orientation," is usually a social, community-building event meant to acquaint employees with one another and acclimate them to the company's culture.

Pantera, a 23-year-old recent college graduate, said he was eager to start his new job but worried about

whether missing out on that in-person experience would hinder his career prospects.

"If we don't get a really solid foundation at this company in our first six months, our first year, what foot does that leave us on for the rest of our time at the company?" said Pantera, who lives in San Francisco. "What if that disillusion a lot of really bright, passionate, smart people from the industry?"

For Michael Anthony Orona, 38, starting a new job during the pandemic was isolating. He was thrilled to finally meet his colleagues at Blue Squad, a company that provides tech tools to progressive political candidates, when its office in Austin, Texas, reopened several months ago.

Then his 10-year-old daughter caught COVID, forcing Orona, his wife and his two children to hole up at home. He found juggling the job and caring for his children to be nearly impossible to manage. Sometimes he had to cancel meetings to make sure his 2-year-old son got down for a nap.

"I'm with our 2½-year-old all the time, and I try to cram in a couple hours of work around that," he said. "And then when we get him down for bed, I work into the middle of the night. It's awful."

He caught COVID, too, but recently tested negative and returned to work, and his children are back at school and day care. But he expects additional quarantines.

"It feels like we're never going to get out of this," Orona said. "For people who are working, both parents, it's totally unsustainable."

L3Harris

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data the 250 million miles to Mars within minutes, while also relaying information between other spacecraft deployed to Mars, L3Harris

said.

"L3Harris' highly reliable space communications links transmit the data, images and audio files to enable exploration of the universe," Kristin Houston, president of L3Harris' Electro Optical Sector, said in a release. "Recently,

this vital communication link made it possible for JPL to send updated software commands to (Mars rover) Perseverance that were then transmitted to the Ingenuity helicopter, allowing for its historic first flight."

For 20 years, every U.S.

rover on Mars and orbiting spacecraft mission has used L3Harris transceivers including the current Perseverance lander and orbiting spacecraft.

Numerous NASA programs have relied on L3Harris' high reliability designs,

manufacturing expertise and technology — from early spacecraft through the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Space Shuttle, International Space Station and previous Mars missions.

L3Harris has some \$18 billion in annual revenue and

47,000 employees, with customers in more than 100 countries.

The company has about 800 employees in Mason.

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Dayton Daily News

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By Chris St
Staff Writer

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WINTER SAVES