



## Best Practices: CDBG Target of Opportunity

The Wally Road Scenic Byway, also known as Ohio's Largest Outdoor Recreation Complex, runs from Loudonville in Ashland County through Holmes County and Knox County. The area is home to numerous campgrounds, canoe liveries, cabins and related tourist activities. Having good access to this recreation area was key for bringing customers to these businesses, but sections of Wally Road were in poor condition.



### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Local businesses and residents have been working on improving Wally Road for about 20 years. These efforts included developing campgrounds, restoring historic properties, holding festivals and encouraging other outdoor recreational opportunities. The residents had the Mohican River designated as a scenic river and the road designated as a scenic byway. They formed the Wally Road Scenic Byway Association.

The residents' efforts were always hindered by the condition of the roadway in Knox County. It deterred tourists from accessing this part of Wally Road and resulted in lost tourism revenue for the County.

### Project Partners:

The local residents and business owners were the driving force to undertake the project. Their years of dedication finally paid off. The Knox County Engineer, CDC of Ohio, Inc., the County's CDBG Consultant, local Ohio Public Works Commission officials, Knox County Commissioners, Knox County Convention and Tourism Director and the Ohio Development Services Agency Office of Community Development all became integral partners in figuring out how to accomplish the project. The project involved reconstruction of 4.1 miles of roadway and 17 new culverts.

Local residents spent years developing the area as a tourism mecca, but according to long-time resident Bill Conrad, **"People would turn around when they got to Knox County. Businesses wouldn't send people down Wally Road because it was dusty."** Mr. Conrad continued that **"The initial value of a byway, beyond tourism, is the preservation and economic stability of a rural area. It's a new renaissance, it's a new direction for Knox County."**

### FUNDING SOURCES:

- Knox County was awarded \$250,000 in CDBG **Targets of Opportunity** Grant funds through the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA)
- Knox County was awarded \$500,000 in **Ohio Public Works Commission** grant funds
- The Knox County Engineer contributed \$271,310 of in-kind labor and materials
- The Knox County Commissioners used \$25,000 in general funds to pay for the consulting services

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

- Knox County was awarded \$500,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant funds

2017

2016

- Knox County was awarded \$250,000 in CDBG Targets of Opportunity Grant funds
- County Engineer provided in-kind labor and materials
- Knox County awarded the Paving contract in Summer 2017
- Construction completed in October 2017

## ELIGIBILITY & APPLICABILITY

- The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) makes CDBG funds available, through various programs, including the Annual Allocation Program and Targets of Opportunity grant program.
- This project was eligible through area-wide slum and blight. An income survey for funding to pay for infrastructure.
- Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) provides financing for local public infrastructure improvements through both the SCIP and LTIP Programs. SCIP is a grant/loan program for roads, bridges, water supply, wastewater treatment, storm water collection, and solid waste disposal. LTIP is a grant program for roads and bridges only.



## RIBBON CUTTING: OCTOBER 2017



Development  
Services Agency