



# **Annual Report 2019**

***Connecting Communities to  
Resources***





# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear OMEGA Members and Friends,

As I reflect upon 2019, I am excited by the opportunities and collaborations that are occurring in our region. We should be proud of our many accomplishments achieved through working together; ranging from the reinstatement of the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund to the cooperative agreement between the City of Coshocton and the Village of West Lafayette for water service; as well as collaboration between Carroll and Jefferson Counties to provide wastewater service to the Village of Amsterdam and unincorporated areas of Carroll and Jefferson Counties.

In addition to the energy and petrochemical sectors, business development in our region remains strong with the completion of Gemini Industrial Machine Group's new facility, funded in part by OMEGA's RLF program; the expansion of AMG Vanadium to Muskingum County, and continued expansion of small manufacturers and businesses in Holmes County and Northeast Coshocton County. Development of these businesses helps to diversify and build a more sustainable, stronger economy for our region.

I must also congratulate the City of Columbiana on being named one of the Top 25 Hallmark Christmas Towns; as well as for receiving the designation of Nicest Place in America by Reader's Digest. Congratulations are also in order for the City of Dover, which was named the Safest City in Ohio by SafeWise. These designations will attract new residents, businesses, and visitors to our region.

Collaboration is a key component to the continued success of our region; made evident through workforce development as our career and technical schools, colleges, and universities are working together with the business community to better meet the needs of economic players in the region. Projects funded through our Regional Job Training Program clearly demonstrate these collaborative efforts, such as the Kent State University Buckeye Career Center Multi-County Advanced Manufacturing Corridor, as well as programs developed by Belmont College and Zane State College. Additionally, the collaboration between the Columbiana County Port Authority and Compco to create such a transformative approach to workforce development has saved 300 jobs. I am also proud that we were able to assist Eastern Gateway Community College with a successful POWER application for the Tri-State Gateway to Growth Training Center.

As a Regional Transportation Planning Organization serving eight of our ten counties, we are working collaboratively with ODOT, county engineers, schools, and others to improve the transportation systems for motorists as well as bicyclists and pedestrians.

Our current staff has a level of service and dedication to our region that is unprecedented. In addition to our ARC/GOA programs, OMEGA staff assisted our member cities and counties in obtaining over **\$4.5 million** in grants to improve our communities. Working collaboratively with the transportation providers, mobility managers, ODOT, and other agencies; we developed a Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan that will provide the framework for connecting individuals; especially older adults and persons with disabilities with transportation for their day-to-day lives.

We are continuing to expand our services and our coalition of partners to enhance community and economic growth in our region. We are grateful for our partnerships with the Governor's Office of Appalachia and the other local development agencies, JobsOhio, OhioSE (formerly APEG), and TeamNEO as we work together to improve our region.

As always, a special thanks to our executive board and membership for their hard work, dedication, and continued support of OMEGA.

Sincerely,

*Jeannette M. Wierzbicki, P.E.*

Executive Director

# OMEGA Member Governments



The member governments of OMEGA include 10 county governments — Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum and Tuscarawas — as well as 12 city governments — Cambridge, Coshocton, Dover, East Liverpool, Martins Ferry, New Philadelphia, St. Clairsville, Salem, Steubenville, Toronto, Uhrichsville and Zanesville.

OMEGA is a collaborative body of member governments that serves as a facilitator between federal and state government agencies and local entities to provide opportunities in economic and community development through networking, education, planning research and allocation of resources. OMEGA's main objective is to foster a cooperative effort in planning, development and implementation of local and regional plans, programs and projects which will increase the economic activity in the area and improve the quality of life for its citizens. OMEGA is also the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum and Tuscarawas counties.

**OMEGA Mission Statement:** *Provide a pathway to enhance community and economic growth in our region.*



Development  
Services Agency



# Membership Meetings



(LEFT to RIGHT): Holmes County Commissioner Ray Eyler; Tuscarawas County Commissioner Chris Abbuhl; John Carey, Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia; OMEGA Executive Director Jeannette Wierzbicki; Coshocton Mayor Steve Mercer; Retired Steubenville Mayor Domenick Mucci



(ABOVE): Governor's Office of Appalachia Director John Carey delivers remarks at Annual Membership Meeting held in March in Coshocton

## Thank you to our sponsors:



(ABOVE): Ohio Development Services Agency Director Lydia Mihalik addresses members at Semi-Annual Membership Meeting held in September in Charm



## DDAA/NADO Policy Conference – Washington, D.C.



(LEFT to RIGHT): Alan Knapp, OMEGA; Karen Fabiano, LDD Program Manager ARC; Tuscarawas County Commissioner Chris Abbuhl; OMEGA Executive Director Jeannette Wierzbicki; Retired Steubenville Mayor Domenick Mucci; Trina Woodland, OMEGA; Lisa Duvall, OMEGA; Coshocton Mayor Steve Mercer

(RIGHT): OMEGA Executive Director Jeannette Wierzbicki addresses congressional staffers at Annual DDAA/NADO Policy Conference



(LEFT): OMEGA ARC Program Manager Alan Knapp, Bill Beisel and Paul Dykshoorn from Kent State Tuscarawas, and Frank Polen from Buckeye Career Center present information regarding Multi-County Advanced Manufacturing Corridor Regional Job Training Program

## 2019 OMEGA Executive Board

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>APPOINTED BY</u>
<i>BELMONT</i>	J.P. Dutton	Commissioner	Belmont County
<i>CARROLL</i>	Jeff Ohler	Commissioner	Carroll County
<i>COLUMBIANA</i>	Tim Weigle	Commissioner	Columbiana County
<i>COSHOCTON</i>	Tiffany Swigert	Executive Director, Coshocton Port Authority	Coshocton County
<i>GUERNSEY</i>	Ernest (Skip) Gardner	Commissioner	Guernsey County
<i>HARRISON</i>	Paul Coffland	Commissioner	Harrison County
<i>HOLMES</i>	Ray Eyler	Commissioner	Holmes County
<i>JEFFERSON</i>	Evan Scurti	Jefferson County Port Authority	Jefferson County
<i>MUSKINGUM</i>	Mollie Crooks	Commissioner	Muskingum County
<i>TUSCARAWAS</i>	Chris Abbuhl	Commissioner	Tuscarawas County
<u>CITY</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>APPOINTED BY</u>
<i>CAMBRIDGE</i>	Thomas Orr	Mayor	City of Cambridge
<i>COSHOCTON</i>	Steve Mercer	Mayor	City of Coshocton
<i>DOVER</i>	Richard Homrighausen	Mayor	City of Dover
<i>EAST LIVERPOOL</i>	Ryan Stovall	Mayor	City of East Liverpool
<i>MARTINS FERRY</i>	Robert Krajnyak	Mayor	City of Martins Ferry
<i>NEW PHILADELPHIA</i>	Joel B. Day	Mayor	City of New Philadelphia
<i>ST. CLAIRSVILLE</i>	Terry Pugh	Mayor	City of St. Clairsville
<i>SALEM</i>	John C. Berlin	Mayor	City of Salem
<i>STEUBENVILLE</i>	Domenick Mucci	Retired Mayor	City of Steubenville
<i>TORONTO</i>	John Parker	Mayor	City of Toronto
<i>UHRICHSVILLE</i>	Rick Dorland	Mayor	City of Uhrichsville
<i>ZANESVILLE</i>	Jeff Tilton	Mayor	City of Zanesville

# OMEGA Financial Report

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
Governmental Funds  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

	General	Revolving Loan	Appalachian Regional Commission	State Appalachian Development Program	Economic Administration	Rural Transportation	Rural Transit Pilot Program	AML Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program	Regional Job Training Program	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>										
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 209,000	\$ 165,313	\$ 64,680	\$ 163,746	\$ 103,927	\$ 2,002	\$ 686,311	\$ 1,394,349
Investment Income	4,623	53,685	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,308
Memberships Fees	88,599	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88,599
Charges for Services	24,919	4,668	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,587
In-Kind Contributions	-	-	51,966	-	10,490	-	-	-	-	62,456
Miscellaneous	160	247	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	407
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>118,301</b>	<b>58,600</b>	<b>260,966</b>	<b>165,313</b>	<b>75,170</b>	<b>163,746</b>	<b>103,297</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>686,311</b>	<b>1,633,706</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>										
Current:										
Economic Development	13,629	86,779	186,089	116,829	97,737	-	-	1,218	685,942	1,188,223
Transportation Planning	-	-	-	-	-	125,766	61,507	-	-	187,273
Indirect Costs	1,896	5,519	27,925	27,521	21,690	28,897	18,064	399	-	131,911
Capital Outlay	-	-	3,119	-	780	6,570	-	-	-	10,469
Debt Service:										
Principal Retirement	56	162	821	809	638	799	531	12	-	3,828
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>15,581</b>	<b>92,460</b>	<b>217,954</b>	<b>145,159</b>	<b>120,845</b>	<b>162,032</b>	<b>80,102</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>685,942</b>	<b>1,521,704</b>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	102,720	(33,860)	43,012	20,154	(45,675)	1,714	23,195	373	369	112,002
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>										
Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	17,945	-	-	-	76,811
Transfers Out	(76,811)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(76,811)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>(76,811)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net Change in Fund Balance	25,909	(33,860)	43,012	20,154	13,191	19,659	23,195	373	369	112,002
Fund Balances Beginning of Year - Restated, See Note 1*	473,235	1,853,115	57,691	39,323	30,739	23,974	2,754	-	-	2,480,831
<b>Fund Balances End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 499,144</b>	<b>\$ 1,819,255</b>	<b>\$ 100,703</b>	<b>\$ 59,477</b>	<b>\$ 43,930</b>	<b>\$ 43,633</b>	<b>\$ 25,949</b>	<b>\$ 373</b>	<b>\$ 369</b>	<b>\$ 2,592,833</b>

\*Note 1: Please see OMEGA's Audited Financial Statements FY 2019 available at [www.omegadistrict.org](http://www.omegadistrict.org).

## Grant Assistance

OMEGA's Community Development Specialists provide assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations to identify potential funding sources and financial strategies. They also facilitate meetings with funding agencies and other interested parties. OMEGA's specialists help prepare funding applications, conduct environmental reviews and provide funding administration services. The provision of these services increases the capacity of communities in Appalachian Ohio, enabling them to be more competitive with the urban areas of the state.

### 2019 Grant Applications

Applicant	Project	Funding Agency	Grant/Loan	Total Project Cost	Status
Belmont	Village Street Improvement Project	OPWC	\$ 334,480	\$ 452,000	Pending
Bethesda	Bethesda Police Department	OCJS JAG-LE	\$ 19,742	\$ 21,936	Not Approved
Bowerston	SR 212 Water Line Relocation	OPWC	\$ 25,024	\$ 36,266	Pending
Byesville	Byesville Recreational Trail	ODNR - RTP	\$ 59,893	\$ 74,866	Approved
Byesville	Byesville Trail Connector Project	ODOT TAP	\$ 84,628	\$ 96,083	Not Approved
Cambridge	City Park Tennis Courts	ODNR NatureWorks	\$ 20,490	\$ 181,022	Approved
Cambridge	East Wheeling Avenue Sanitary Sewer	CDBG RPIG	\$ 355,500	\$ 711,004	Approved
Carrollton	Industrial Park Drive Reconstruction	OPWC	\$ 480,200	\$ 686,000	Approved
Center Twp (CAR)	Wood Rd Repaving	ODOT Oil-Shale	\$ 108,336	\$ 108,336	Not Approved
Coshocton	Coshocton - West Lafayette Water Line	CDBG RPIG	\$ 750,000	\$ 7,421,500	Approved
Dover	Betscher Ave/7th St. Sidewalks	ODOT SRTS	\$ 154,362	\$ 154,362	Approved
Dover	Downtown Sidewalks/Bike Path	ODOT TAP	\$ 776,516	\$ 1,001,100	Not Approved
Dresden	Street Repaving	OPWC	\$ 118,404	\$ 160,005	Approved
East Palestine	EP Walking Trail Rehabilitation	ODNR - RTP	\$ 112,000	\$ 142,000	Approved
Eastern Gateway C.C.	Tri-State Gateway to Growth Training Center	ARC - POWER	\$ 836,332	\$ 2,117,734	Approved
Glenmont	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	OPWC	\$ 249,574	\$ 430,300	Pending
Harrison County	Harrisville Wastewater System Improvements	CDBG - Critical Infrastructure	\$ 331,500	\$ 531,500	Not Approved
Jewett	Water Distribution System Improvement	CDBG RPIG	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,650,000	Approved
Lore City	Lore City Paving Project	OPWC	\$ 88,905	\$ 120,142	Pending
Martins Ferry	Land and Water Conservation	ODNR - LWCF	\$ 78,516	\$ 157,032	Not Approved
Millersburg	South Sidewalk Project	ODOT TAP	\$ 307,000	\$ 501,584	Approved
Newcomerstown	Park Hill Water Storage Tank	OPWC	\$ 248,430	\$ 507,000	Pending
New Concord	New Concord Area Pool Revitalization	ODNR - NatureWorks	\$ 63,506	\$ 84,675	Approved
New Philadelphia	Regional Training Prop	FEMA AFG	\$ 260,000	\$ 286,000	Not Approved
ODOT	US 250 Bridge Replacement	USDOT INFRA	\$ 14,080,271	\$ 14,397,801	Not Approved
ODOT	I-77 Bridge Replacement	USDOT BUILD	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 47,655,000	Not Approved
OMEGA	Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant	US EPA	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	Pending
Salem	Fire Hose Replacement	FEMA AFG	\$ 32,429	\$ 34,050	Not Approved
Salem	Ambulance Acquisition	FEMA AFG	\$ 280,955	\$ 295,002	Not Approved
Salem	Waterworth Memorial Park Restrooms	ODNR NatureWorks	\$ 31,573	\$ 42,098	Approved
Salt Creek Twp.	Mt. Hope Sidewalks	ODOT TAP	\$ 318,000	\$ 390,000	Approved
Strasburg	Bodmer Ave/Tiger Dr. Sidewalks	ODOT SRTS	\$ 150,000	\$ 394,933	Approved
Tuscarawas Village	Memorial Park Playground Improvement	ODNR NatureWorks	\$ 7,830	\$ 10,440	Approved
Tuscarawas Twp (COS)	Township Sign Program 2019	ODOT Highway Safety	\$ 5,246	\$ 5,246	Approved
Union Twp (BEL)	Barkcamp Road	OPWC	\$ 420,485	\$ 311,159	Not Approved
Yorkville	Market Street Improvement	OPWC	\$ 230,701	\$ 292,027	Approved
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 46,356,993</b>	<b>\$ 82,614,300</b>	
<b>TOTAL GRANTS/LOANS APPROVED</b>					<b>\$4,501,037</b>



## Outcomes for Grant Assistance Applications and ARC/GOA Projects

- 37 Applications Submitted
- 19 Applications Approved
- 453 Jobs Created or retained
- 3,994 Existing Businesses Assisted
- 198,740 Beneficiaries
- 24.5 Miles of Waterline Constructed
- 10.9 Miles of Sanitary Sewer Improved
- 44 Water Valves Replaced
- 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improved
- One 50,000 GPD Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 1.93 miles of Roadway Improved
- 2.5 Miles of Sidewalk
- 2,627 Persons Trained
- 6 Park Improvements
- 71 Road Safety Signs



(ABOVE): OMEGA Transportation Department Conducts Traffic Count



(ABOVE): Steubenville Water Valve Replacement Project

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The OMEGA RTPO includes Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties.

Major transportation planning activities include:

- Delivered first ever RTPO presentation at the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Meeting
- Created the organization's first Title VI Plan with an updated Public Participation Plan
- Hosted first ODOT LTAP Training Course for How to Create a Rural Active Transportation Plan
- Participated in US 30 Regional Transportation Improvement Project meetings
- Conducted 16 traffic counts
- Facilitated/developed School Travel Plans for East Holmes and West Holmes Local School Districts
- Provided grant writing services for transportation projects
- Participated in Tuscarawas, Carroll, and Holmes Counties Safe Communities Coalitions
- Conducted Rural Consultation meetings in all eight counties
- Began the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Hosted one of ODOT's Walk.Bike.Ohio regional stakeholder meetings and ODOT's Access 2045 Regional Public Involvement Meetings
- Participated in a peer exchange with North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Participated in and provided assistance to the Northeast Coshocton County Infrastructure Committee
- Facilitated Local Road Safety assistance in Tuscarawas County, Columbiana County, Coshocton, and Salem.
- Constructed region's first General Transit Feed Specification code for inclusion in Google Transit
- Participated in ODOT Access 2045 Stakeholder Meetings
- Served as charter member and active participant in Ohio River Coalition of Ohio
- Advocated for Mid-Ohio River Valley Statistical Port Designation

## RTPO FACTS

### 451,822 People

18.3% age 65 and older

Median Household Income: \$49,305  
(\$52,407 Ohio)

15.4% Poverty Rate (13.9% Ohio)

25 minutes commute time

10,350 center line road miles

70% local roads

Two Interstates: I-70 and I-77

Statewide Primary Corridors: US 30, US 36, SR 16, US 250

### 2,248 local bridges

6.3% Local Bridges: Gen. Appraisal  $\leq 4$

34.8% Local Bridges:  $\geq 70$  years old

9 local bridges closed

### Human Service Transportation Agencies

Five Public Transit Agencies

One Coordinated Transit Council

One Mobility Solutions Call Center

498,583 rides served

### Safety (2016-2018):

29,906 Accidents - 0.8%

164 Fatal Accidents + 1.2%

7,314 Injury Accidents - 0.3%

Leading Type: Fixed Object

8 General Aviation Airports

2 Airports Runway  $> 5,000$

924 miles of railroad

10 Railroad Operators

16 Private River Terminals

1 Intermodal Port Public

98.75 miles of bicycle paths

# Regional Coordinated Council Executive Update

Since 2018, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) collaborated with ODOT's Office of Transit and created a Regional Coordinated Council consisting of various stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors of transit and human services transportation to more efficiently coordinate transportation services across county and regional borders. Gathering public opinion on service gaps and transportation challenges, the managed areas of focus to improve service connections were determined to be:

- Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT);
- Employment transportation; and
- Enhancing technological resources for all transportation service providers

The region produced many achievements in the first couple of years, such as establishing a regional call center that helps schedule trips and offers daily mobility solutions, offering an online shared scheduling software portal between providers to coordinate trips across jurisdictional lines, sharing best practices to pilot deviated-fixed routes in underserved areas of the region; as well as receiving the 2019 NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. OMEGA in conjunction with stakeholders developed a Regional Coordinated Plan with the primary focus to address unmet transportation needs, develop strategies to meet those needs, and identify projects that will improve transportation services throughout the region. This plan will also streamline the grant funding eligibility and processes. More importantly, the plan will help the region meet the overarching goal of the program to ***"Transport more people, especially seniors and people with disabilities, with quality service in efficient time at the lowest costs to the public and the providers."*** Basically, ***everyone who needs a ride can get a ride.***



(ABOVE): OMEGA Transit Planner Sean Sammon, Transportation Planner/GIS Coordinator Megan Carmel, and Transportation Director Kevin Buettner prepare for presentation.



In 2019, OMEGA participated in the 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas program. Using GIS technology and working with local stakeholders, we reviewed and suggested changes to statistical area boundaries, specifically to census tracts, block groups, and census designated places (CDPs), throughout the OMEGA region.



## Staff Responsibilities and Contact Information

**Jeannette Wierzbicki, P.E., Executive Director** oversees all program activities in the office. She ensures the proper administration of policies and procedures; as well as program budgets. Jeannette represents OMEGA at meetings with public officials and the general public. She also provides executive oversight of the Regional Transportation Planning Programs. Jeannette is Second Vice President of the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA), Vice President of the Ohio Association of Regional Council (OARC); and serves as OMEGA's representative on the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group.

Email: [jeannettew@omegadistrict.org](mailto:jeannettew@omegadistrict.org)

**Cindi Metz, Assistant Executive Director / Finance Director** works in conjunction with the Executive Director to further the mission of OMEGA and assumes the responsibilities of the Executive Director in her absence. As Finance Director, she administers the organization's long-term and short-term budgets and prepares all financial reports for the board of directors and members. She works directly with the auditors to ensure compliance with all federal and state requirements. Cindi also manages the daily operation of the office, including human resources, payroll, deposits, payments and account reconciliation. She is cross-trained to assist the Revolving Loan Fund Administrator in a back-up capacity.

Email: [cindim@omegadistrict.org](mailto:cindim@omegadistrict.org)

**Lolly Ravak, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Administrator / Regional 166 Loan (166) Program Administrator** is responsible for all activities required to administer the RLF and 166 including coordination of business loan packages, analysis of loan requests, facilitation of loan closings, compliance with state and federal regulations, monitoring repayments and performing all accounting processes related to the loan programs. She also performs on-site monitoring visits and conducts file audits on a regular basis. Lolly is cross-trained to assist the Finance Director in a back-up capacity.

Email: [lravak@omegadistrict.org](mailto:lravak@omegadistrict.org)

**Alan Knapp, ARC Program Manager / Community Development Specialist** is the program manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) programs and develops the OMEGA ARC/GOA Project Package on an annual basis. He provides technical assistance to applicants requesting ARC/GOA funding. Alan also manages the Regional Job Training Program. He provides assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations on the identification of potential funding sources and facilitates meetings with local officials, community leaders and funding agencies. Additionally, Alan prepares applications for Community Development Block Grant funding and assists communities with the administration of CDBG grants, including environmental reviews, status reports, drawdowns and amendments.

Email: [alank@omegadistrict.org](mailto:alank@omegadistrict.org)

**Lisa Duvall, Communications Manager / EDA Program Manager** is responsible for all areas of public relations and communication, including membership, media and the general public. She oversees the production and release of annual reports, newsletters, press notices and content of the website. She is also the manager of all Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs, including communication of program intent, eligibility criteria, funding availability, and leveraging requirements in addition to application preparation and funding administration. She also produces the OMEGA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report.

Email: [lduvall@omegadistrict.org](mailto:lduvall@omegadistrict.org)

**Trina Woodland, Community Development Specialist** assists local governments and non-profit organizations with the identification of viable financing strategies for needed improvements. She also facilitates meetings with local officials, community leaders and funding agencies. She prepares funding applications, conducts environmental reviews, and provides funding administration services. Trina is also responsible for conducting the local review for the Intergovernmental Review (IGR) process for project applications submitted to federal and state agencies. She also serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission Natural Resource Assistance Council for District 14.

Email: [trinaw@omegadistrict.org](mailto:trinaw@omegadistrict.org)

**Kevin Buettner, Transportation Director** works with the Executive Director and Transportation Planner / GIS Coordinator on the Transportation Program. Responsibilities under the Transportation Program include: development of a four-year Regional Transportation Improvement Plan; participation in statewide transportation planning activities; providing technical assistance (e.g. school travel plans, traffic counts, crash analysis, road safety audits, training); maintenance of transportation databases; conducting transportation related surveys; development of performance measures and targets, and revisions to the Regional Transportation Plan. Kevin also facilitates the public involvement component of the Transportation Program and prepares funding applications for transportation and non-transportation projects.

Email: [kevinb@omegadistrict.org](mailto:kevinb@omegadistrict.org)

**Megan Carmel, Transportation Planner / GIS Coordinator** works in conjunction with the Executive Director and Transportation Director on the Transportation Program. Responsibilities under the Transportation Program include development of a four-year Transportation Improvement Plan, participation in statewide transportation planning activities, providing technical assistance (e.g. traffic counts, crash analysis, road safety audits), maintenance of transportation databases, conducting transportation related surveys, development of performance measures and targets, and revisions to the Regional Transportation Plan. Megan also develops the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) needed to support transportation, the transit pilot program and other planning/economic development activities. She also provides GIS services to communities within the OMEGA region upon request.

Email: [mcarmel@omegadistrict.org](mailto:mcarmel@omegadistrict.org)

**Sean Sammon, Transit Planner** is responsible for developing and managing OMEGA's Regional Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Pilot Program. As part of the planning process, he leads public workshops; distributes surveys; facilitates meetings with stakeholders including senior citizens, people with disabilities, mobility managers, transportation service providers, human service agencies and other interested parties; analyzes data; conducts origin and destination studies; and in conjunction with stakeholders developed a Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan. Sean also contributes to and participates with the Ohio Disability Transportation Coalition, the Ohio Public Transit Association Planning Committee, and the DriveOhio Alliance.

Email: [ssammon@omegadistrict.org](mailto:ssammon@omegadistrict.org)

**Hannah Stillions, Part Time Development Specialist** assists local governments and non-profit organizations with the identification of viable financing strategies for needed improvements. She also facilitates meetings with local officials, community leaders and funding agencies. She prepares funding applications, conducts environmental reviews, and provides funding administration services.

Email: [hstillions@omegadistrict.org](mailto:hstillions@omegadistrict.org)

**Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA)**  
**Area Development Projects PY 2019**

Applicant/Project	County	GOA Request	Other \$	Total Cost
Holmes County Holmes County Water System	Holmes	100,000	220,000	320,000
Village of Newcomerstown West Street Area Water, Sewer and Roadway	Tuscarawas	150,000	964,000	1,114,000
Village of Roseville Roseville Downtown Revitalization	Muskingum	154,800	967,800	1,122,600
City of Cambridge East Wheeling Avenue Sanitary Sewer	Guernsey	150,000	469,800	619,800
Kent State University Tuscarawas Rising Manufacturing Scholars	Tuscarawas	50,000	70,220	120,220
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$604,800</b>	<b>\$2,691,820</b>	<b>\$3,296,620</b>

**Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA)**  
**Regional Job Training Program PY 2019**

Applicant/Project	County	GOA Request	Other \$	Total Cost
KSU Tuscarawas/Buckeye Career Center Multi-County Advanced Manufacturing Corridor - Stage 2	Belmont Carroll Guernsey Harrison Holmes Jefferson Tuscarawas	200,000	26,700	226,700
Belmont College Advanced Manufacturing, CDL and Heavy Equipment Technician Training	Belmont Harrison Monroe	200,000	176,300	376,300
Columbiana County Port Authority Compco Quaker Training Center	Columbiana	200,000	100,000	300,000
Ohio Valley Educational Service Center Careers in My Community	Guernsey	90,000	104,300	194,300
Mid-East Career and Technology Centers Career Enhancement Through Commercial Driver's License Truck Driver Training	Guernsey Muskingum Noble Perry	193,500	53,100	246,600
Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center Manufacturing Skills for Success	Guernsey Muskingum Noble Perry	151,500	91,800	243,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,035,000</b>	<b>\$552,200</b>	<b>\$1,587,200</b>



**Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**  
**Area Development Projects PY 2019**

Applicant/Project	County	ARC Request	Other \$	Total Cost
Jefferson County Amsterdam Area Wastewater Facilities	Carroll Jefferson	250,000	10,866,132	11,116,132
City of Steubenville	Jefferson	250,000	1,351,722	1,601,722
Phase I Water System Improvements - Valve Replacement/Rehabilitation				
Village of Mingo Junction Equalization Basin for WWTP	Jefferson	250,000	6,000,000	6,250,000
Muskingum County North Moose Eye Meadowbrook Water	Muskingum	250,000	1,788,000	2,038,000
WSOS Community Action Commission Multi-Community GPS & GIS Mapping	Guernsey Harrison Muskingum Tuscarawas	250,000	250,000	500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,250,000</b>	<b>\$ 20,255,854</b>	<b>\$ 21,505,854</b>

**REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM**

Established in 1992, the OMEGA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program offers low-interest loans in conjunction with bank participation to new and existing private-for-profit businesses within the ten-county region served by OMEGA. The RLF program is marketed to borrowers in the commercial, industrial, and service sectors. Over the past 27 years, the Revolving Loan Fund program has invested approximately \$6.6 million dollars for the startup or expansion of 94 businesses resulting in the creation and/or retention of 1,610 full-time equivalent jobs. The OMEGA Regional 166 Loan (166) program offers an attractive interest rate fixed at or below the current market rate; and has many of the same requirements as the Revolving Loan Fund program. The addition of the 166 program is significant because if eligibility requirements are met for both programs, OMEGA is able to finance up to \$800,000 of a total project cost based upon availability of funds.

**Loans per Sector**

Commercial	23
Industrial	28
Service	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

## Gemini Industrial Machine Group, LLC – May 2019

Gemini Industrial Machine Group was established in 2015 to fulfill a need in the industrial manufacturing sector in northern Ohio. With the founders combined experience in business, engineering, and machine building, Gemini offers engineering, fabrication, manufacturing, and rail services (steam locomotive repair, new part construction). The company focuses on building machines with as many readily available off-the-shelf parts as possible; thus reducing their customer's down time. In less than three years, the company had realized tremendous growth attracting clients like Quanex Building Systems, Lauren Manufacturing, Superb Industries, as well as an international medical equipment supplier. To accommodate the company's growth and expanding customer base, OMEGA participated with The Huntington National Bank in the financing of a new 25,000 sq.ft. facility located on seven acres in the Tuscarawas Regional Technology Park in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

*Eight (8) full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs retained, Six (6) FTE created*



## Columbus-Pittsburgh Corridor Association (CPCA)

Over the course of 2019, OMEGA continued working tirelessly alongside member counties to bring fresh opportunities for advancement to the region. One specific cause called for increased federal support; as the Columbus-Pittsburgh Corridor Association (CPCA) traveled to Washington, D.C. to reiterate the importance of completing the 47 miles of roadway that remain unfinished. The vision is to complete the Columbus-Pittsburgh Corridor which would be a four-lane highway spanning 160 miles from Columbus to Pittsburgh. The uncompleted sections of the corridor pass through Muskingum, Coshocton, Harrison, and Tuscarawas counties. Tremendous growth has already occurred along this corridor. During the last seven years, \$5 billion in private investment resulting in the creation of 9,500 new jobs across five Appalachian Ohio counties has occurred; far exceeding earlier estimates. Completion of the remaining 30% of this corridor will continue to drive economic growth by improving commerce and freight transportation, as well as an expanding the tourism industry. Members of the CPCA sought financial support from the federal level in order to conduct a feasibility study, which would serve to reevaluate the potential economic impact that project completion would have upon the OMEGA region. Members of the CPCA were able to relay vital information to representatives; while reinforcing the fact that the Columbus-Pittsburgh Corridor would lead to exponential growth throughout the region, state, and nation and unlock the full economic potential of eastern Appalachia Ohio.

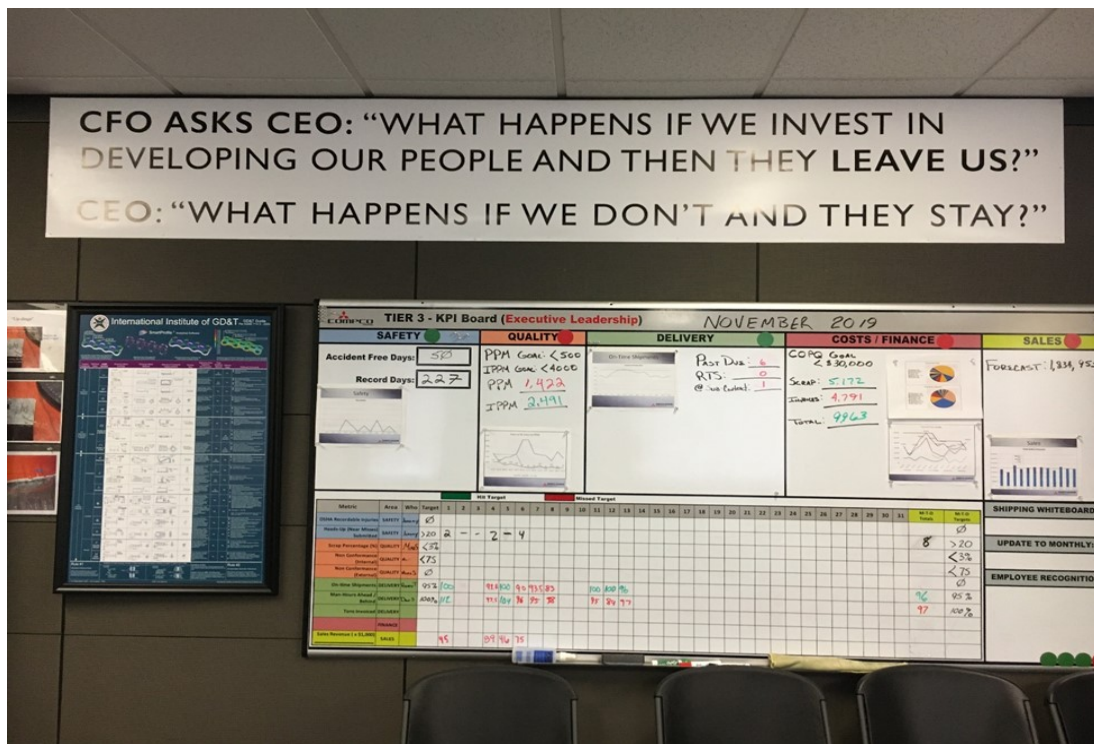


(Left to Right) Nick Homrighausen, Harrison County CIC; Evan Scurti, Jefferson County Port Authority; Tiffany Swigert, Coshocton County Port Authority; Jeannette Wierzbicki, OMEGA Executive Director

# Columbiana County Port Authority and Compco Quaker

## Establish Job Training Center

Rebirth and rejuvenation were common themes in the City of Salem in 2019 as Compco Quaker and the Columbiana County Port Authority worked together to bring a vital industry back from the brink of extinction. Not only did Compco Quaker purchase a company a mere two weeks after employees were issued a WARN Notice; but they have gone above and beyond by investing in the workforce of communities like Salem through Job Training Centers. OMEGA is proud to have been able to successfully recommend that a \$200,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Appalachia (GOA) Regional Job Training (RJT) Program be directed towards the creation of a Job Training Center at Compco's Salem facility. Through its compassion and belief in small-town Appalachia, Compco Quaker has given employees a second chance at the American Dream by providing continuous training and finding innovative ways to increase production. From implementing new procedures designed to reduce the production time of automotive parts to offering cost-free, informative literature to employees; Compco Quaker has leveraged funding from the GOA RJT Program to improve the work of 300 employees and 80 students, as well as create 50 jobs while retaining 300 positions. The mission of Compco Quaker and the Columbiana County Port Authority demonstrates the value of investment in the Appalachian workforce.





## OMEGA Highlights



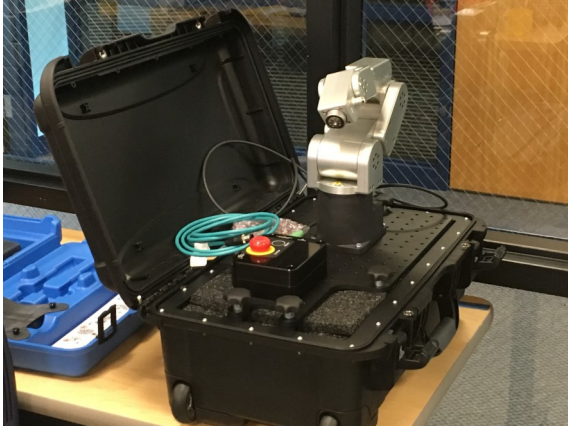
(ABOVE, LEFT): Congressman Troy Balderson (12th District) and (RIGHT): Congressman Bill Johnson (6th District) addressed OMEGA Members at the August Legislative Mixer, held at Muskingum University.



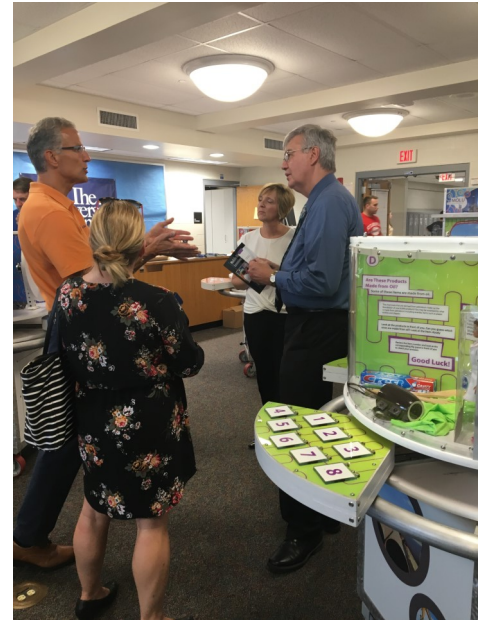
(ABOVE): Dominic Ciano, Southeast Regional Liaison for the Auditor of State, presents OMEGA Finance Director/Assistant Executive Director Cindi Metz with the Clean Audit Award. Less than 10% of all audits conducted across the state receive the award.



## OMEGA Highlights



(ABOVE): A portable robot is displayed for visitors at Belmont College



(ABOVE): Governor's Office of Appalachia Director John Carey observes Mobile Oilfield Learning Unit (MOLU)



(LEFT): Bridges were rebuilt in Epworth Park, in the Village of Bethesda as a result of a Nature-Works Grant secured with the help of OMEGA.

(RIGHT): The Ohio River Coalition of Ohio (ORCO) at the statehouse prior to a May 2019 breakfast networking event with state legislators. ORCO's mission is to advocate for commerce, job creation, and economic development through use of the Ohio River System as an integral part of Ohio's freight transportation network.



## 2019 Impact Statement

### Appalachian Regional Commission and Governor's Office of Appalachia

OMEGA secured **\$2,889,800** in federal and state ARC and GOA funding, including Regional Job Training funds. These funds leveraged almost **\$23.5 million** in other funding sources, which resulted in the creation and/or retention of **453** jobs.

#### Other Federal, State, and Private Sources

OMEGA helped secure **\$4.5 million** in grants and low-interest loans from other funding sources for our region.



(ABOVE): Middle School Students learn to use robotic technology in the Rising Manufacturing Scholars Program through Kent State Tuscarawas