

## **News Update from First Suburbs Consortium**

By Andy Dobson

April 2, 2010

First Suburbs Consortium (FSC) will be under new leadership in 2010. Chuck Kamine from Amberley Village and Richard Ellison from Elmwood Place left their elected positions at the end of 2009 and retired from the FSC executive board. John Smith from Silverton, Dan Pillow from Addyston, and Mark Weber from Blue Ash will replace them, serving along with Jim O'Reilly (Wyoming), Tom Moeller (Madeira), Gerri Harbison (Montgomery), and Jenny Kilgore (Glendale).

Because of the devastating effects of housing foreclosure and abandonment in our communities, in 2009 FSC closely watched and supported various legislative proposals in the General Assembly. The most promising bill, H.B.313, introduced in 2009 would expand the successful land bank system used by Cuyahoga County statewide. Due to the resistance to this land banking model from some county officials and state representatives, FSC will continue to lobby for the need for land banking to gain their support for the legislation.

A goal of the FSC executive board for 2010 is to increase communication with and participation of individual member communities and the County Board of Commissioners. First Suburbs will also increase collaboration with its counterparts in Columbus, Cleveland, and Dayton to advance our agenda with our legislators to General Assembly representatives and the Strickland administration..

In 2010, FSC has a representative (Jim O'Reilly) on the I-75 Reconstruction Advisory Committee. The I-75 Reconstruction Advisory Committee has a role in planning for massive traffic diversions that will result from I-75 construction. Over the lifespan of the project (2011 through 2018), many member jurisdictions in the Mill Creek valley will be affected by increased traffic volume, damages to roads and property, public safety costs from increased accidents, and impact on overall quality of life.