

### 3C Passenger Rail Background

Ohio's 3C "Quick Start" Passenger Rail Plan could connect four of Ohio's major cities by passenger rail for the first time in forty years. It is part of the Ohio HUB project commissioned by the Ohio Department of Transportation and would be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Depending on funding and equipment availability service could begin as early as 2011 and reach nearly 60% of the state's population and its 1 million non drivers.

The cities served in this corridor include Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and Dayton. From Cincinnati to Cleveland, it would be about 256 miles, with Columbus being roughly the halfway point. It would take about six hours to travel from Cincinnati to Cleveland including stops. The 3C corridor would provide connections to the proposed Midwest Regional Rail line. Trains would initially reach speeds up to 79 miles an hour with the potential to reach up to 110 miles an hour after gradual and incremental upgrades.

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) have requested federal stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—which provides \$8 billion for passenger rail. Ohio is seeking at least \$250 million and up to \$400 million for the 3C "Quick Start" Passenger Rail Plan. The fee for passengers of the Ohio Hub transit system would cost about \$20 one-way from Cleveland to Columbus, and \$18 from Cincinnati to Columbus.

Cities such as Middletown, Springfield, and Galion would likely be added as stops in future phases of the 3C line.

