

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nancy Richison

Economic Development

614-410-4643

**New state budget includes \$1 million
for Avery/Muirfield interchange improvements**

(Dublin, Ohio) – The state’s new two-year budget, which received near unanimous approval by the legislature, includes \$1 million to add a ramp to U.S. 33 at the Avery/Muirfield exit.

“The Avery/Muirfield interchange improvement is vital to the development of Dublin Methodist Hospital,” said Dublin Mayor Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher. “Providing this additional access to the hospital could save valuable minutes when transporting patients. We are most appreciative of the leadership roles that Senator Steve Stivers and Representatives Jim Hughes and Jon Peterson played in guiding this initiative through the budget process and addressing the health and safety of our residents.”

"The U.S. 33/Avery-Muirfield interchange is a major thoroughfare for people traveling in and around the Dublin area," Hughes said. "The money allocated to this project in the state budget will be used for improvements to the interchange. These improvements will provide motorists with an easier access to the hospital, ultimately resulting in saving lives."

While Governor Ted Strickland vetoed 38 line items in the budget, the funding for the interchange remained. This funding will enable creation of a new roadway off the Avery-Muirfield exit that will take patients and their families directly into the new Dublin Methodist Hospital currently under construction. Providing the most direct and efficient entrance to this new facility will not only help alleviate traffic congestion but, most importantly, will make an immense difference in emergency situations for patients and their families.

"We have been pleased with the ongoing support for this project, which will add to our ability to get patients to Dublin Methodist Hospital as quickly and safely as possible," said Cheryl Herbert, president of Dublin Methodist Hospital. "We look forward to working with the City of Dublin to finalize the details as we collaborate to offer residents access to high-quality healthcare in their community."

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In addition to providing better access to the hospital, the roadway improvements also are expected to foster economic development opportunities to retain and attract businesses to Dublin.

The estimated total cost of this project is \$2 million. The City also is seeking federal funding for a portion of the costs.