

OUR INVISIBLE ECONOMIC ASSETS

BY ▶ AMANDA MARKO

A healthy public works infrastructure is essential for a healthy economy. One of Greater Cleveland's business advantages is its logistical capabilities—the waterways, public transit system and roadways are used daily to transport people and goods throughout the world.

Since its inception in 1983, the Build-up Greater Cleveland (BUGC) organization has played a critical role in systematically leveraging and managing the resources of our region in order to maintain and upgrade our vital infrastructure. Working side-by-side with BUGC stakeholders is the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) ensuring that Northeast Ohio's spending on infrastructure is efficient and effective.

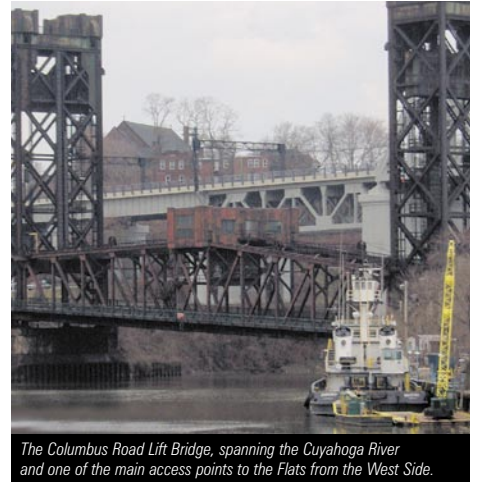
In contrast with major entertainment sites and other large-scale developments, Cleveland's infrastructure system is the "invisible asset" that works quietly to make Greater Cleveland productive, efficient, safe and environmentally secure. Thanks to the efforts of key BUGC partners, the roads, bridges, waterways, wastewater facilities, public transit and other regional infrastructure assets work hard so the region can work well.



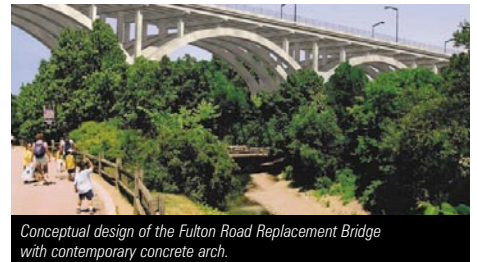
The staff of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District electrofish near the Southerly Treatment Plant to determine if the number of fish species has increased over time.



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Westley Treatment Plant serves approximately 110,000 residents from Cleveland's West Side and processes an average flow of 33 million gallons per day.



The Columbus Road Lift Bridge, spanning the Cuyahoga River and one of the main access points to the Flats from the West Side.



Conceptual design of the Fulton Road Replacement Bridge with contemporary concrete arch.

Carol Caruso, GCP's senior vice president for advocacy, says "BUGC is unique; I don't think there's another organization in the nation, let alone Ohio, that is quite like BUGC," referring to how it helps the region maximize its investment in infrastructure. "But because these projects are so large—often requiring hundreds of millions of dollars—the collaboration is essential for attracting the funds from the local, state and federal governments."

The combined spending of public works agencies represents a significant part of the region's construction industry income. BUGC has helped stimulate more than \$6 billion in infrastructure construction in Cuyahoga County. Currently, more than \$1.2 billion in improvements are underway in Greater Cleveland.

Through a committed public/private partnership—"the infrastructure network"—collaboratively preserves and

enhances Northeast Ohio historically rich investments in our infrastructure systems and our invaluable fresh water rivers and Great Lake. <<



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