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**CONSTRUCTION OF UNION CENTRE INTERCHANGE BRIDGE
COMPLETED SUCCESFULLY, BEFORE LABOR DAY WEEKEND
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The Butler County Transportation Improvement District announced today that traffic management during the construction of the Union Centre Boulevard Interchange bridge over Interstate 75 was a complete success. Estimated to take four or more weeks, crews laid the steel for the bridge in only two weeks. Those involved with the project attribute the speed and ease of bridge construction to a new method of traffic management. Interstate traffic was rerouted over the exit ramps from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday nights while crews laid the steel beams for the bridge. This work affected only one direction of traffic at a time, and there were no traffic delays or problems. Crews began laying the steel beams for the bridge over I-75 on August 10, and finished this portion of the project on August 25.

An alternative method for dealing with traffic is to close the interstate for 15 minutes while crews work, open for traffic for 15 minutes, and repeat the pattern.

"We are extremely pleased with the success of the entire project, and particularly with the construction setting the steel for the I-75 bridge. The method for dealing with traffic was new and different, but it also was the safest alternative for I-75 drivers. Neither construction of the bridge or interstate traffic was delayed in any way." said Darrell Barger, TID Executive Director.

The interchange opens 3,000 acres for development, and build-out of this area will generate 21,000 new jobs. Furthermore, development in the interchange area and along the new Union Centre Boulevard is expected to produce \$86 million in new taxes during the first ten years.

Under the administration of the Transportation Improvement District, the Union Centre Boulevard Interchange is the result of the cooperation of number of public and private interests including Union Township, the Butler County Commissioners, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and private property owners. The Butler County Engineer's Office is serving as construction manager of the project.