



Van Wert Super Site Logistical Strengths Analysis

Office of Jobs and Commerce

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Welcome Home
VAN WERT COUNTY • OHIO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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OVERVIEW OF NORTHWEST OHIO

Due to its close proximity to large cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Toronto and several others, Northwest Ohio has become a hub for major distribution centers. The largest of these include Fed Ex Ground, UPS, Menards, Walgreens, Ohio Logistics, Home Depot, Lowes, Khol's, Campbell's, P&G and Best Buy. As a result of the enormous amounts of goods which are moved to, from and through Northwest Ohio daily, one of the best transportation infrastructures in the nation has been created. This transportation network makes the region a perfect location for businesses seeking to quickly and cost effectively move their goods throughout the country and the entire globe.

One of Northwest Ohio's greatest assets is its road network. Several heavy haul US routes and interstates run through Northwest Ohio including I-75 / I-475, I-75 / I-280, I-80 / I-90 (also known as the Ohio Turnpike), US 30, US 23, US 24, US 6, US 20 and US 33, facilitating large volumes of truck traffic while avoiding the congestion that plagues many similar regions in the US. \$1.44 billion in current and planned construction is being invested along these routes in Northwest Ohio, speaking to the importance of the region to the state as well as the nation.

In addition to a road network which ensures the quick and efficient movement of businesses goods, Northwest Ohio has become the center of one of the largest hub and spoke freight systems in the country. At CSX's new North Baltimore facility, freight is consolidated and then shipped directly to locations across the country, eliminating the hassle of dealing with Chicago's extremely congested facilities. Locating in Northwest Ohio puts businesses directly on major freight networks rather than forcing them to pay to get their goods to these networks.

An often overlooked logistical strength of locating in Ohio, especially in terms of global movement of goods, is the access to waterways which provides the cheapest form of long distance hauling. In addition to being located close to one of the nation's premiere ports in the Port of Toledo, Northwest Ohio is within a three hour truck drive of ports in Cleveland and Cincinnati. Access to Lake Erie provides a direct route to Europe through the St Lawrence Seaway at a cheaper cost than hauling goods to the coast. Further, access to the Ohio River allows goods to travel to Gulf via the Mississippi River or the faster and more reliable Tennessee Tombigbee waterway, where they can be shipped directly to Mexico and South America or through the newly upgraded Panama Canal to Asia.

A final logistical strength of Northwest Ohio is the ability for businesses to utilize air freight. Toledo Express airport and Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus are among the nation's best air cargo airports and are capable of handling any aircraft in the world.

In summary, Northwest Ohio has amazing strengths utilizing all modes of transportation. The road network in Northwest Ohio is among the best in the nation with vast heavy haul routing options which dramatically decrease congestion. The region has also become the epicenter of CSX operations with direct connections to rail terminals across the country. Adding to this the outstanding access to waterways and close proximity to world class international airports, it is easy to see why Northwest Ohio is a premiere location in the entire country for locating a business.

