

HERE ARE SOME OF THE

On the blog
Time to grow up

One of President Barack Obama's inaugural themes, delicately implied, was that Americans do not just have a problem, they *are* a problem, writes George F. Will of the Washington Post.

TERRANCE C. Z. EGGER | President and Public

EDITORIALS

1/22/09

Don't let ODOT stiff Cleveland

After spending a decade completing major highway projects in other parts of the state, a cash-strapped Ohio Department of Transportation now wants to cut back on a billion dollars worth of transportation projects promised years ago to this community.

That's unacceptable to Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. Nor should it sit well with residents of Northeast Ohio.

Cleveland has had more than \$1 billion in highway construction on ODOT's drawing boards for nearly a decade. Now ODOT is hurting. And its remedy — as seems all too frequently to be the case with the administration of Gov. Ted Strickland — is to shortchange Greater Cleveland.

The aging Inner Belt Bridge is a safety concern that cannot be ignored. But Jackson has rightly told the state he will not stand for choking off access to downtown while ODOT closes the existing bridge and replaces it with a functional, yet inexpensive structure.

The mayor might be a bit more flexible on some other highway work owed Cleveland, but the Opportunity Corridor connecting the interstate highway system with University Circle and improvements to the West Shoreway are still near the top of his list of demands.

Cleveland Foundation head Ronald Richard is now in position to join Jackson in demanding that Cuyahoga County be given its due as Ohio's most populous county. The governor last week named Richard Ohio's "infrastructure czar." He will lead the process of selecting projects to be funded with expected federal stimulus dollars.

Jackson has written to President Barack Obama, requesting stimulus funding for more than 50 infrastructure and transportation projects, including the bridge, the Opportunity Corridor and the West Shoreway.

Mayors of other large Ohio cities are submitting their requests, too. But no

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