

# *The Village of Hebron*

## *Office of the Administrator*

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## **Historic transportation hub becoming more walkable**

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Village Administrator*

190 years ago, John Smith laid out the town of Hebron as he foresaw that two important transportation routes, the Ohio and Erie Canal, and the National Road (now known as US 40) would intersect there.

The “Historic Crossroads of Ohio” still has US 40 bisecting the village from east to west and four-lane Ohio 79 crosses north to south. Interstate 70 hugs Hebron to the south. Together, these three important transportation routes have made Hebron a great location for the Newark Ohio Industrial Park that is home to multi-national and Fortune 500 facilities.

Over the years, the village has also had a rich history with rail transportation, first with the Interurban and now with the Genesee & Wyoming railroad that still brings freight to several customers in the industrial park. More recently, however, Hebron and its intergovernmental partners have focused on the earliest mode of transportation - walking - whether it's along the historic corridors or its more modern parks.

From the Kroger anchored shopping center on the east edge of town to the new Municipal Complex on the western edge, the village's 2,400 residents have been able to walk on an ADA-compliant sidewalk the nearly two-mile length of the town alongside National Road. Work is now underway to complete a north-south route as well, using the old Ohio 79 route known as High Street.

In 2014, the Village of Hebron partnered with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Licking County Area Transportation Study (the Newark area's Metropolitan Planning Organization) to construct a sidewalk in the south quadrant. The .89 mile sidewalk with pedestrian enhancements such as lights, benches and crosswalks starts at US 40, goes by Canal Park and down the west side of S. High Street. The project cost about \$680,000 with the Village of Hebron responsible for 20 percent of the cost.

**Elsewhere, Hebron worked with the Licking Parks District to construct an ADA-compliant connection from Canal Park to the Ohio Canal Greenway, a four-mile multi-use trail that was once the towpath for the original Ohio and Erie Canal.**



**Now, walkers, bikers or horseback riders can use the multi-purpose trail that traverses under Interstate 70, by the Hebron Fish Hatchery and through a wooden covered bridge and back to Ohio 79 by Buckeye Lake.**

**At Evans' Park, the Village of Hebron created a paved .8 mile multi-purpose trail around the wetlands and baseball, soccer and football fields. In 2015, the village used millings from an Ohio Public Works Commission resurfacing project to add another .6 mile unpaved trail to go around the disc golf course and connect back to the park's paved trail.**

**Today, work is beginning on the North High Street (fka Ohio 79) sidewalk. Like the southern segment, it will be funded 80 percent through the partnership with ODOT and LCATS. The new sidewalk will start at US 40 where the 2014 project started and go north through the residential section up to the Post Office, several factories, medical facilities and retail stores. The planned .75 mile sidewalk, when completed in 2019, will allow residents to walk anywhere along the main routes, north to south, and east to west, which helped make the "Historic Crossroads of Ohio" what it is today.**