



20
23

ANNUAL REPORT

DETROIT REGION
AEROTROPOLIS®
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



INNOVATION & AVIATION

2023 welcomed many new and impactful capital investments to the Detroit Region Aerotropolis. The Corporation Board's focus on building an innovation ecosystem by targeting advanced manufacturing and mobility industries led to multiple announcements including FedEx at DTW and an autonomous tug demonstration at the American Center for Mobility.

The daily work of supporting greenfield expansion by actively marketing 6,000 acres of development-ready land centered in a world-class network of transportation infrastructure remains. However, the pathway to drive corporate expansion and new investment in our region has also moved into supporting mobility in the new aerospace economy.

Since 2020, the Aerotropolis communities joined efforts to build highways in the sky for advanced air mobility. This new infrastructure, grounded in authoritative municipal data, brought new advanced manufacturing prospects to the region. It also expanded on the multi-modal mobility network that is often a deciding factor when considering corporate expansion.

Our target industries, which include logistics, advanced manufacturing, and next-generation mobility are growing. Aerotropolis communities found a strong partner in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME) and others.

Whether you are an Aerotropolis partner or a company looking to expand in Southeast Michigan, we invite you to explore this report to gain a better understanding of our region and join us in celebrating the successes of 2023.

CHRISTOPHER GIRDWOOD
CEO

DAVID GLAAB
Chairman of the Board



THE AEROTROPOLIS ADVANTAGE

The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation is a four-community, two-county public-private economic development partnership driving corporate expansion and new investments around Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS NETWORK

6,000 AVAILABLE ACRES 

DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

- » 18th busiest airport in North America
- » 35 million passengers per year
- » 1,100 flights per day
- » 140 non-stop destinations on four continents
- » 464 million pounds of cargo per year

PORT OF DETROIT

- » 29 terminals handle 17 million tons of cargo every year

INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY

- » 2nd busiest border crossing in North America, providing 2 bridges and a rail tunnel to Canada

WILLOW RUN AIRPORT

- » Leading "all cargo" airport in the USA
- » 200 million pounds of cargo per year
- » U.S. Customs operation on site
- » Corporate and charter flight hub
- » 24-hour service

AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY

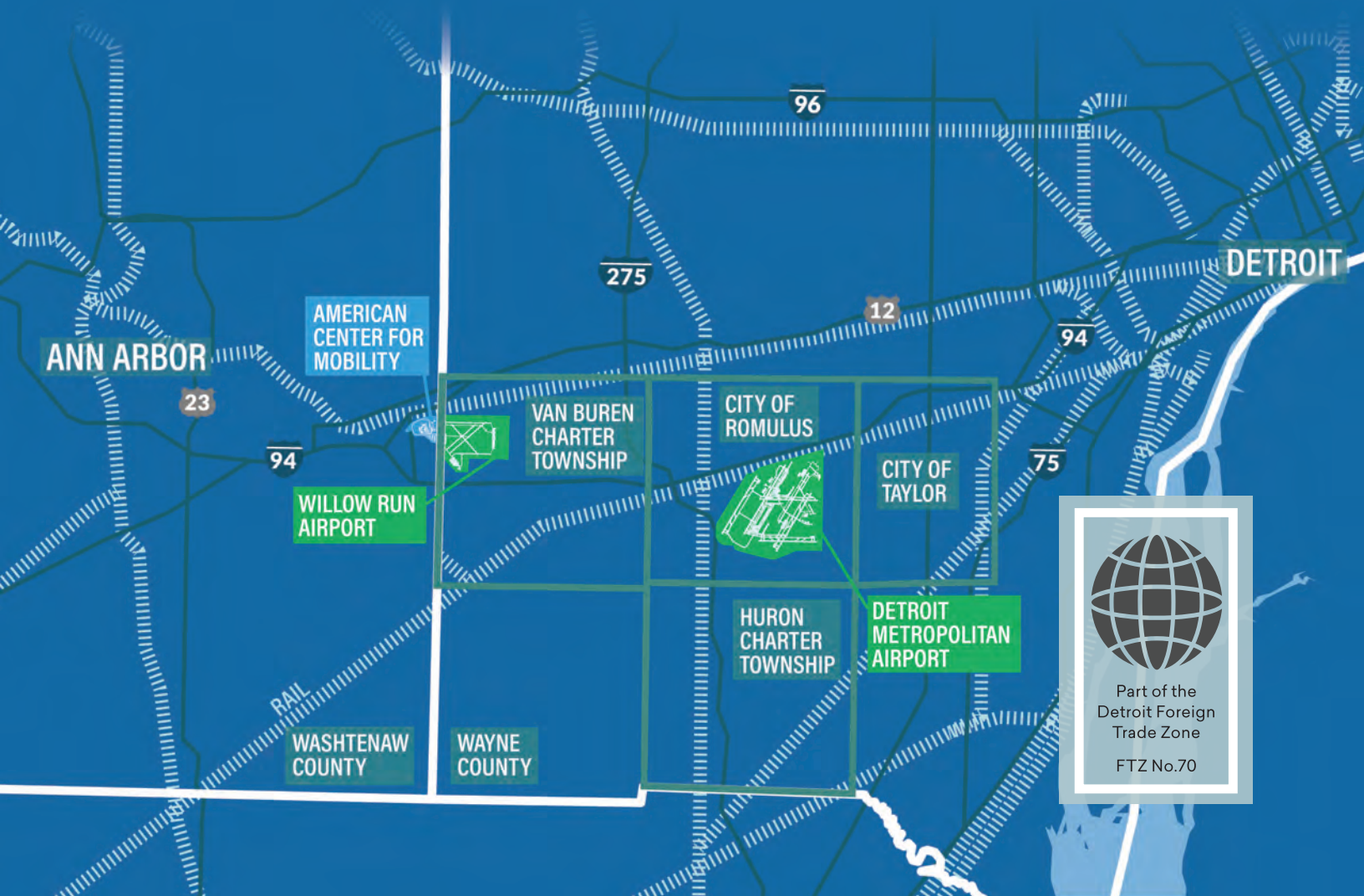
- » 335-acre test facility for connected and autonomous vehicles
- » 2.5-mile highway loop, entrance/exit ramps, reconfigurable intersection, four-seasons testing


5 RAIL LINES 

3 FREEWAYS 

2 AIRPORTS 

1 AMERICAN CENTER FOR MOBILITY 




 Part of the Detroit Foreign Trade Zone
 FTZ No.70

MARKETING & ADVERTISING

In 2023, the Aerotropolis worked closely with the Wayne County Airport Authority to promote economic development, in addition sharing the safety and security work that has been completed at DTW and Willow Run: www.metroairport.com

The Aerotropolis team placed 21 advertisements in 9 publications, reaching millions of readers worldwide in print and digital formats. The target audience of these increased efforts are C-suite decision makers, site consultants, and corporate real estate professionals.



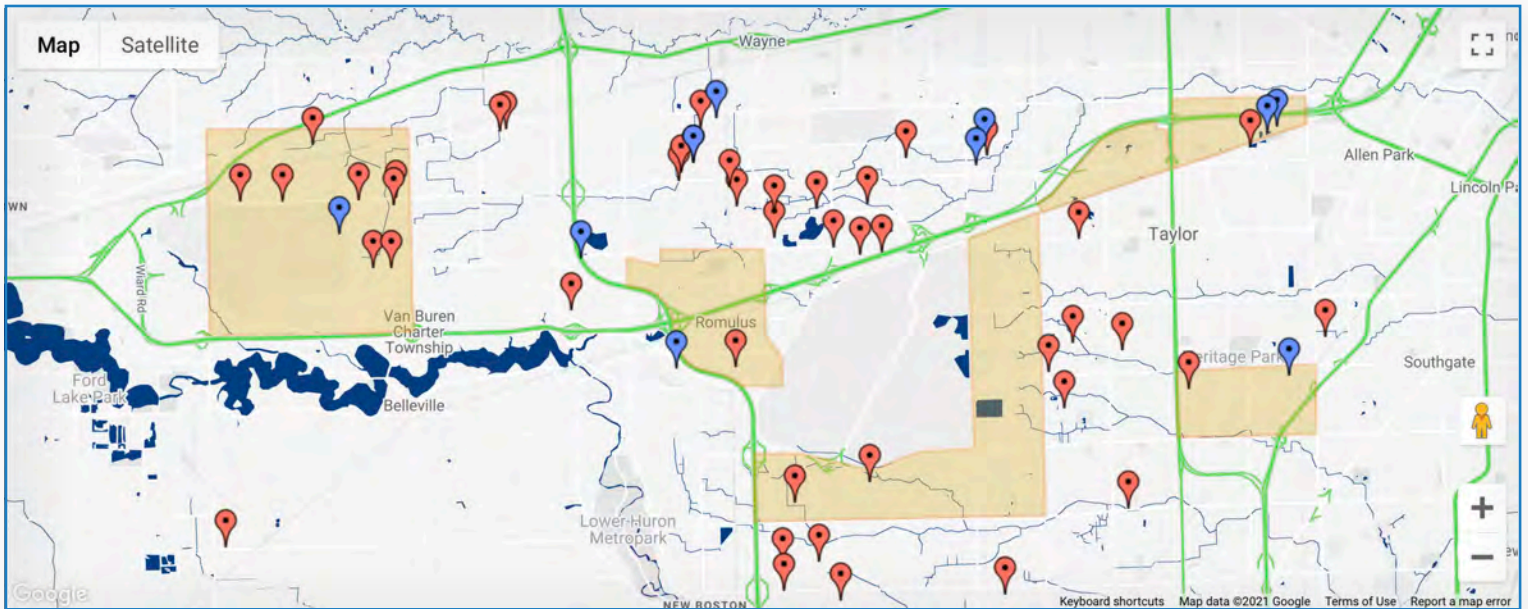
MEDIA COVERAGE

- Ann Arbor News
- CBS 62 Michigan Matters
- City of Taylor Sportsplex
- Crain's Detroit Business
- Crain's Chicago Business
- Crain's New York Business
- DBusiness Magazine
- Detroit Driven
- Detroit Free Press
- Detroit News
- FOX 2 News
- GovLoop
- Livability.com
- Michigan.com
- MI Tech News
- MLIVE
- WDIV Click on Detroit
- WDIV Live in the D
- WhereNext Magazine

BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND EXPANSION

One of the pillars of Aerotropolis' business development strategy is connecting with our target audience. In 2023, the Aerotropolis submitted over 270 vacant buildings and sites (10+ acre sites noted in red below) to compete for high quality jobs in the region. The blue marks below indicate vacant industrial properties that the Aerotropolis team markets daily.

Working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Detroit Regional Partnership, Wayne County and the Aerotropolis communities we have built a strong team approach to economic development.



VISIT DETROITAERO.ORG/PROPERTIES/ TO ACCESS INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY DATA SHEETS.

BY THE NUMBERS

81 BUSINESS ATTRACTION & EXPANSION **PROJECTS**

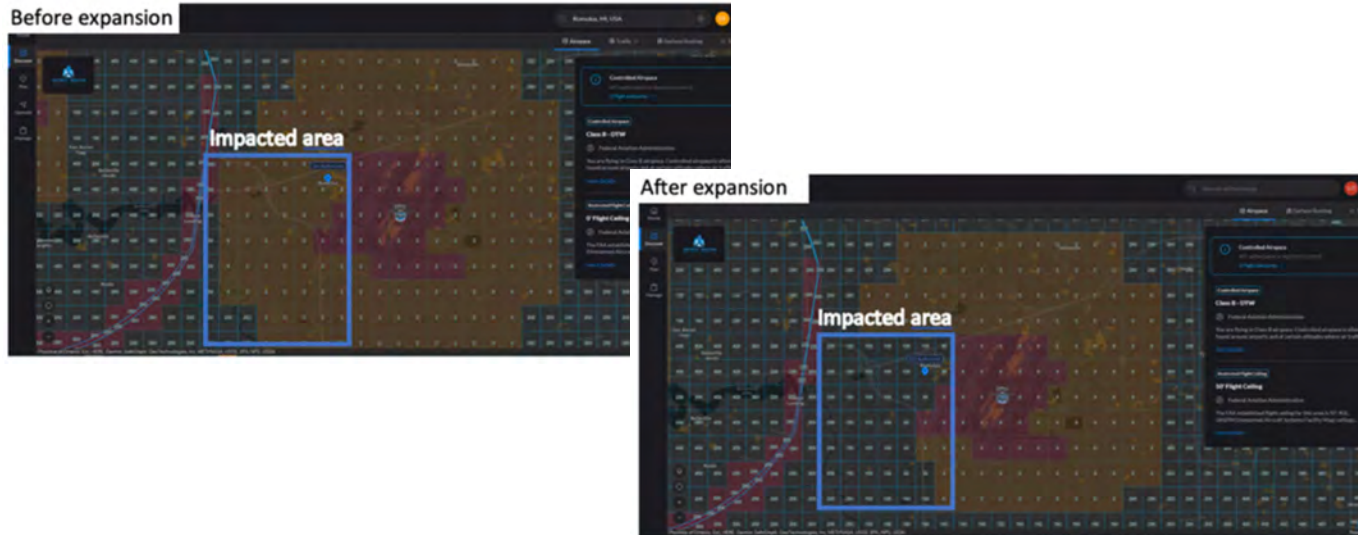
13 CONDUCTED **SITE TOURS**

32 **RESPONSES** TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFIS)

270 **SITES** SUBMITTED FOR LOCATION CONSIDERATION

19 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRADESHOWS AND **CONFERENCES**

BUILDING HIGHWAYS IN THE SKY



Since January 2020, Detroit Aerotropolis licensed the Airspace Link AirHub platform to establish and test a new low altitude drone infrastructure in the region. The complete AirHub platform including AirHub for Pilots and AirHub for Government was developed and implemented for all four Aerotropolis communities.

Data from the communities, county, state, local and commercial sources were collected, processed, and analyzed to identify relevant hazards and risks associated with UAS operations occurring within Aerotropolis was utilized to build safe “Highways in the Sky” that are in harmony with Aerotropolis community interests.

The City of Romulus was thrilled to announce a significant advancement in aviation technology with the expansion of drone-accessible airspace near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). This development, made possible through changes implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), marks a significant step forward for Romulus in embracing innovation, economic growth, and enhanced community life.

Romulus's active participation in the Detroit Region Aerotropolis, a collaborative effort to transform the region into a manufacturing, logistics, and aviation hub, was crucial in this process. The city's involvement in Aerotropolis's initiative to integrate drone technology into regional infrastructure significantly contributed to the success of these airspace changes.

This update has modified 22% of the flight grids from zero to a minimum of 50 ft ceilings, improving accessibility across 13.92 square miles of the city. This change affects over 32% of Romulus, primarily in commercial and residential areas, positively impacting more than 5,500 Romulus residents.

This expanded airspace access is expected to unlock a wealth of economic opportunities, enabling local businesses and individuals to explore various UAS technologies. The applications are diverse, encompassing everything from medical and package delivery to infrastructure inspection and public safety use cases. This change is anticipated to fuel economic expansion, stimulate job growth, forge new educational avenues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and is likely to bring improvements in public health and safety while introducing unique recreational activities, such as drone parks.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS:

TAKING OFF! AEROTROPOLIS COMMUNITIES SEE A NEW WAVE OF INVESTMENT!



ROMULUS

BUSINESS-FRIENDLY MINDSET PAYS-OFF ATTRACTS BIG DEVELOPMENT.

Mayor Robert McCraight

Romulus is open for business, and Mayor Robert McCraight wants developers and retailers to know. The new outlook has landed the airport-adjacent city a huge development now under construction, bringing \$130 million in investment, hundreds of jobs and plenty of space to grow commercial and retail activities.

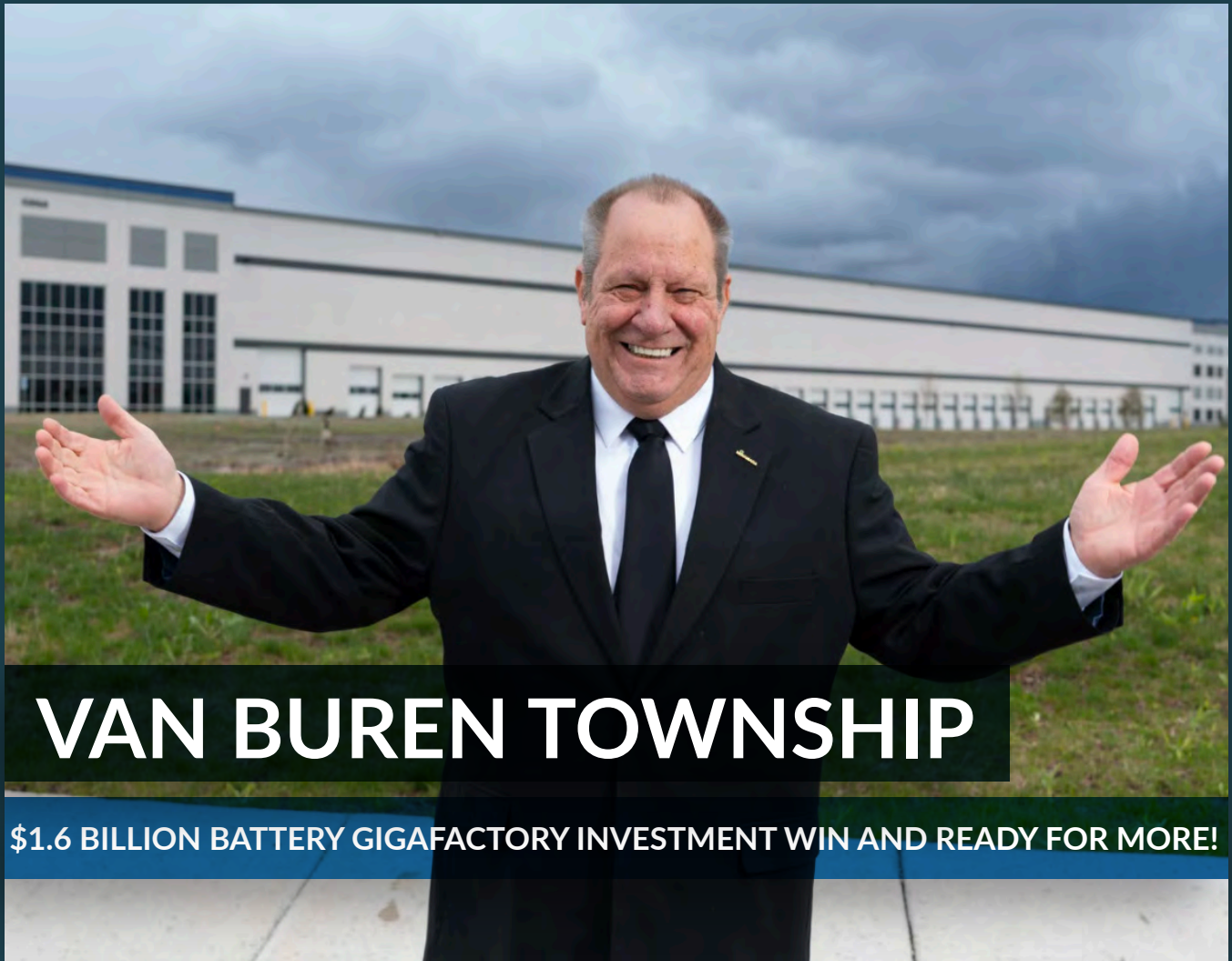
HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RACING FOR THE PERFECT MIX OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT, AND QUALITY OF LIFE!



Supervisor David Glaab

The list of exciting developments in Huron Twp. is growing, including a job-creating new auto parts plant and new retail and Main Street revitalization efforts in New Boston. With a mix of commercial sites close to major freeways (I-94, I-275), residential one-acre lots alongside the scenic Huron River and parts of three Huron-Clinton Metroparks, leaders see a bright future ahead.



VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

\$1.6 BILLION BATTERY GIGAFACTORY INVESTMENT WIN AND READY FOR MORE!

Supervisor Kevin McNamara

Van Buren Township has landed a huge \$1.6 billion Our Next Energy (ONE) battery gigafactory, bringing 2,112 jobs with it. The township stood out among a dozen competing U.S. states and a Canadian province. Its leaders believe the deal is just the start of more to come for the community, positioned between Detroit Metro Airport and Ann Arbor.

CITY OF TAYLOR

\$40 MILLION INDUSTRIAL DEAL A BIG WIN AS CITY PUSHES ECONOMIC REVIVAL!



Mayor Tim Woolley

After decades without new manufacturing projects, Taylor recently announced a deal whereby Metro 94 Commerce Center will invest \$40 million on a former blighted site for light manufacturing and warehousing. The project will create up to 185 jobs and open the gates for more prospects for the city.

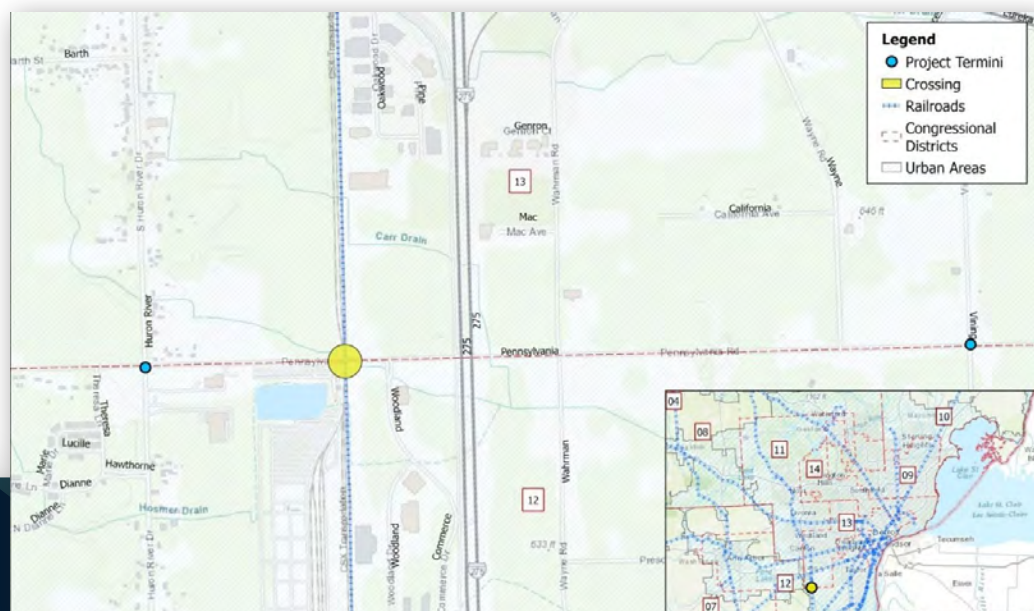
GRADE SEPARATION

DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS CHAIRMAN DAVID GLAAB JOINED ROMULUS MAYOR ROBERT MCCRAIGHT AND THE AEROTROPOLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ANNOUNCE THAT AEROTROPOLIS RECEIVED \$865,775 TO BEGIN PRELIMINARY GEOTECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING WORK FOR PENNSYLVANIA ROAD GRADE SEPARATION.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell led the effort to secure \$865,775 for Pennsylvania Road grade separation through the Federal Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Community Project Funding process.

Pennsylvania Road borders the City of Romulus and Huron Township, Michigan, located in the 12th and 13th Congressional Districts. The CSX rail crossing at Pennsylvania Road is oftentimes blocked to roadway traffic which led the communities to seek federal funding assistance for a grade separation.

Public safety response times to the areas west of the CSX tracks can vary significantly if the crossing is blocked with a train. Delays are typically encountered as far as Eureka Road (one mile north of Pennsylvania Road) from moving trains will be 2 to 3 minutes and stopped trains can be significantly longer. The only other options are to wait for the train to move, which may be a long delay, or to turn the emergency vehicles around on the street, a difficult maneuver for a large vehicle.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

In July 2023, Dallas-based Hillwood Enterprises LP and Detroit-based Sterling Group started construction on a new consolidated building for FedEx Corp. slated to be about 250,000 square feet at the southeast side of the DTW airport.



2  CLOSED
PROJECTS

465 NEW  **JOBS**

 MILLION IN CAPITAL \$463M
INVESTMENT

COMMUNITIES & PARTNERS

Regional economic development is only as strong as the individual parties that comprise “the region” and the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation is no exception.

Our success in 2023 and beyond would not be possible without the continued collaboration with and commitment of our communities and partners. Each of the following communities, counties, and organizations – both public and private are critical to the success of our business attraction efforts. To each, we say thank you!

“OUR COMBINED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE BOUGHT NEW FEDERAL FUNDING FOR GRADE SEPARATION TO OUR REGION. IT IS BECAUSE OF STRONG PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THE DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THESE SUCCESSES IN 2023 AND BEYOND.

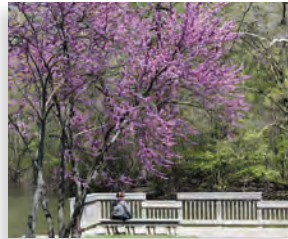
- DAVID GLAAB, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



CITY OF ROMULUS



CITY OF TAYLOR



HURON CHARTER TOWNSHIP



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP



WASHTENAW COUNTY



WAYNE COUNTY



WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY



DTE ENERGY

 @DetroitAero Detroit Region Aerotropolis DetroitAero.org

DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS[®]

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

