



ALLEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP



2025 REVIEW



144 S. MAIN STREET, LIMA, OH 45801 | 419-227-7702 | AEDG.ORG

BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION



BRE VISITS

AEDG completed **80 BRE visits** to strengthen relationships with local employers, understand their operational needs, and identify workforce, infrastructure, and expansion opportunities. More than half expressed confidence in their business outlook. Twenty-eight plan to grow their workforce in 2025–2026, 24 expect to maintain current staffing, and 18 intend to invest over \$1 million in land acquisition, facilities, or equipment. This consistent engagement positions AEDG to respond effectively to business needs and support long-term economic growth.

SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE'S GOVERNOR'S CUP

AEDG submitted **16** Allen County development projects for the 2025 Governor's Cup, highlighting local investment, job growth, and capital expansion on a national stage. The effort boosts the county's visibility with site selectors and underscores AEDG's commitment to tracking economic progress. After Lima ranked second among Tier 3 metros in 2024 with 10 projects, the 2025 submissions set the stage for potentially even greater recognition.



Guardian Energy



SumiRiko



Wieland Randall



SpartanNash



Rode's Meats



D&D Ingredient

D'ARCY LOAN FUND PORTFOLIO

- **1** new loan issued in 2025.
- **6** existing loans still being repaid.
- Gap-financing funds remain available for eligible applicants.
- For project inquiries, contact info@aedg.org.



JOBOSHIO SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

- **3** AC businesses received grant funding.
- Collectively, **19** businesses have received **\$550,000** in grants since 2020. These grants have supported the creation of **79** jobs.

BUSINESS ATTRACTION

 ELITE DRONE SERVICES, LLC



June 2025 - Demolition of Former Macy's/Lazarus



October 2025 - Target Construction (Floor Pad Installation)



November 2025 - Target Construction (Walls Installation)



December 2025 - Target Construction (Roof Installation)

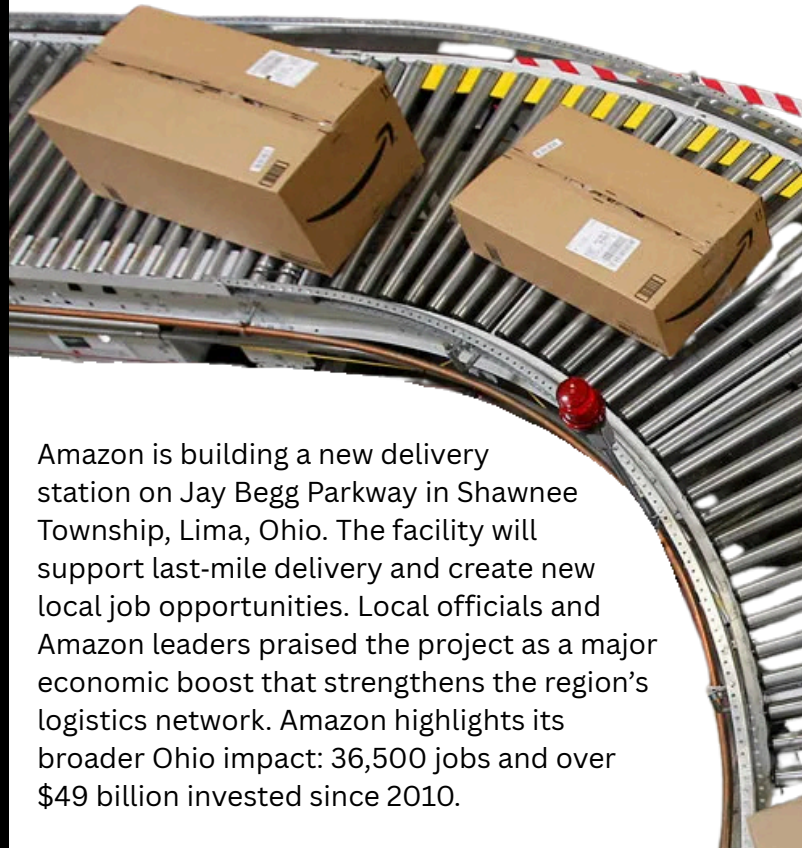



NEW DATA CENTER

American Township is moving toward a major tech milestone with the launch of Project BOSC, a new data center planned along North Cole Street between Bluelick and Irvin. The project represents a significant investment in the region's digital infrastructure and economic future.



NEW AMAZON DISTRIBUTION CENTER



 **TARGET CONSTRUCTION**

Target purchased the former Macy's site at the Lima Mall with a plan to build a new 128,000-square-foot store at the corner of Elida and North Cable Road. The project is expected to boost local retail options, create new jobs, and further support ongoing efforts to revitalize the mall. This redevelopment was made possible in part by a \$1.37 million state grant from ODOD, which funded the demolition of the former Macy's/Lazarus building and cleared the way for the new anchor tenant. The store is projected to open in Summer 2026.

Amazon is building a new delivery station on Jay Begg Parkway in Shawnee Township, Lima, Ohio. The facility will support last-mile delivery and create new local job opportunities. Local officials and Amazon leaders praised the project as a major economic boost that strengthens the region's logistics network. Amazon highlights its broader Ohio impact: 36,500 jobs and over \$49 billion invested since 2010.

DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS



PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last year marked a significant period of growth across the region, with several major projects reaching important milestones. Whiteford Kenworth's ribbon cutting in Lima showcased its continued expansion, Novus Foods' groundbreaking in Delphos set the foundation for its next phase of development, and Vanamatic's grand opening added another highlight to the year. Across these projects, AEDG provided essential support, helping fuel ongoing business investment and regional economic momentum.



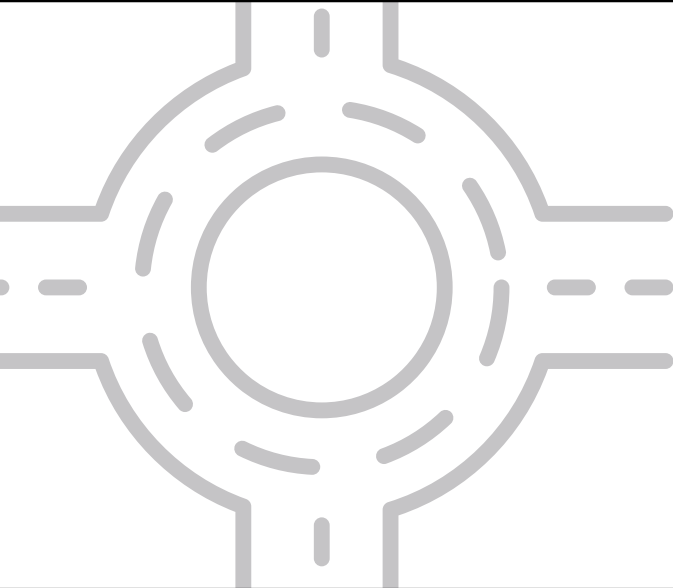
Whiteford Kenworth Ribbon Cutting



Novus Foods Groundbreaking



Vanamatic Grand Opening



ROUNDBOUTS

Lima and Allen County continue to advance their long-term strategy to improve traffic flow and enhance roadway safety through the expanded use of roundabouts. In 2025, new roundabouts were completed at State Route 81 and Thayer Road—a collaborative effort by ODOT District 1, the Allen County Engineer, and the Port Authority of Allen County—as well as near Procter & Gamble's new warehouse and manufacturing facility. These projects highlight the region's ongoing commitment to modernizing infrastructure and reducing congestion.



Procter & Gamble



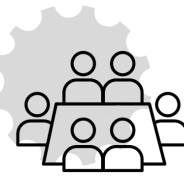
SR 81 and Thayer Rd.

NETWORKING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



5-COUNTY CEDS

The Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG) convened community members and regional partners from four surrounding counties to discuss long-term economic planning. Together, they developed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to guide future growth and improve access to federal funding. A SWOT analysis highlighted key issues such as housing availability, population shifts, and living-wage concerns. These findings will inform strategies to attract residents, support employers, and strengthen the workforce. A final report is expected in early 2026, marking a significant step toward a more connected and resilient regional economy.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Greater Lima Region (GLR) and Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG) brought together more than 100 community leaders for their Annual Meeting, celebrating a “Next Generation” era of growth in Lima and Allen County.

AEDG and GLR actively engage with the community and build relationships with local partners. By observing and learning from ongoing work, the AEDG and GLR team supports and aligns with existing efforts as they develop. This helps strengthen collaboration and reinforces progress within the community.



WEBSITE TRAFFIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA INSIGHTS



730,467 Social Media Impressions



8,700 YouTube Video Views



85,200 Website Sessions (aedg.org)



11,066 Email Subscribers

NETWORKING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Women in Business Jollification



Global Leadership Summit



Lima Chamber's Beantown Biz Bash



Rotary Club Weekly Meetings



Lima Aquatic Park Grand Opening

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AEDG

This past year, I've watched something powerful unfold across Allen County—new businesses opening their doors, existing companies expanding, families finding good jobs, and communities growing stronger. These aren't just statistics on a page. They're the result of conversations you've had, decisions you've made, and trust you've placed in a shared vision for our region.

At AEDG, we know that economic development doesn't happen overnight or in isolation. The projects you'll see highlighted in this report, many began with a single meeting years ago, a relationship built over coffee, or a local leader who said "yes" when it mattered most. Your partnership made each one possible.

Whether you're an elected official championing policy, a business owner taking a chance on Allen County, an investor backing local growth, or a community member who simply believes in what we're building together—you've been part of this momentum. And momentum is exactly what we have right now.

Looking ahead, I'm energized by what we can accomplish together. The foundation we've built positions us not just to attract opportunity, but to create it—for the people who call Allen County home today and those who will tomorrow.

Thank you for believing in this work, for showing up when it counts, and for being the kind of partner that makes real progress possible.

Sincerely,



Cindy Leis
President & CEO
Allen Economic Development Group



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