

NOTE: "Those people who don't think that government can respond quickly should take a look at this case," said Jim Wehrman, a vice president at Honda of America. – Columbus Dispatch



Friday, June 14, 2013

Kasich takes a victory lap at 130 mph on repaved test track ***State aid for research center should boost Ohio's automotive sector***

By [Joe Vardon](#)

It might've been the fastest victory lap a politician has ever taken.

The Honda Accord carrying Gov. John Kasich in the passenger seat roared down the straightaways and took the turns at speeds reaching 130 mph yesterday at the Transportation Research Center's high-speed test track.

Last year, the Department of Transportation and the Ohio Third Frontier — at the urging of Kasich and JobsOhio — each gave \$3 million to help finance a \$16 million resurfacing of the 7 1/2-mile track, completed in November. Honda contributed the other \$10 million.

The previous concrete track was pulverized and paved over with four layers of asphalt, allowing test cars to travel faster than 200 mph instead of 140 mph. State and track officials said the project will enable Honda to test the supercar NSX it's building in Marysville at the 39-year-old track.

Kasich said that when he visited the track in April 2012, the road had potholes.

"Smooth as silk," the governor said yesterday following his short trip around the track, which consisted of two laps at high speed.

Article continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/06/13/kasich-victory-lap.html>



June 13, 2013

New Test Track Complete

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

By Alexandria Chapin

The new testing track at the Transportation Research Center is helping retain existing business and attract new business to this Ohio facility. The new surface will allow Honda and other costumers to test high speed vehicles. The cost of the project is \$16 million with 10 million from Honda and 6 million from state funding.

The Transportation Research Center said 360 full-time jobs will be retained. Approximately 90 percent of expenditures benefit Ohio.

Governor John Kasich and Senate President Keith Faber took a few laps around the new track. The track accommodates speeds above 200 mph.



Thursday, June 13, 2013

Track Resurfaced at Ohio Car Testing Facility

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

EAST LIBERTY, Ohio (Jen French/Ken Hines) -- Honda is teaming with state officials to make sure supercars are stay up-to-speed in Ohio. The auto-maker provided \$10 million to resurface the Transportation Research Center (TRC) track, which is used to test high-speed vehicles. State funding supplied the remaining \$6 million needed to complete the improvement. Drivers can now reach speeds up to 200 mph on the track while testing vehicles, including Honda's forthcoming Acura NSX "supercar". "Now you can feel it's silky smooth," test driver Roger Schroer said of the new track. Governor John Kasich (R) said the track will bring more automotive business to the state. "People are going to want to come here because this is as good as it gets anywhere in the country," Governor Kasich said. TRC is the only test track in the country that allows all car companies to use its facility. TRC generates approximately \$40 million in research and development contracts each year, according to a company media release.



6/13/2013

Transportation Research Center unveils resurfaced high-speed track

[LISTEN TO REPORT HERE](#)

By Joel Penhorwood

The Transportation Research Center, commonly known as TRC, unveiled their recently renovated high-speed test track to the governor's office and other dignitaries on Thursday.

The 7.5-mile track was in major disrepair since its initial construction 39 years ago. Since that time, only sections of the track have been repaired which have lowered the road's quality to a point where using the facility was potentially unsafe.

Through funding from Honda and the State of Ohio, the track has been completely resurfaced allowing it to now accommodate speeds above 200 mph. Officials say the improved speed will further attract companies within the industry to use the facility.

The high-speed highway is now more suitable for tests that include accumulation of miles, coast down, and fuel economy testing.

Rick Gildow is president of TRC and says the project will bring more business to the center, further stimulating the Ohio economy. He also expressed thanks to the governor for giving them help through JobsOhio.

"We wanted a smooth track," Gildow said. "We had started limiting speeds to 140 miles per hour and that wasn't going to get it for some of the new products that were coming to market."

"Through the governor's efforts and Hondas efforts in reconditioning this track, we've got a smooth surface with smooth curves that can achieve those objectives we've set for the project," Gildow said.

Governor John Kasich was the main speaker of the ceremony. He talked about the importance of Ohio's dedication to the research center and its value to the state saying, "TRC represents Ohio's long term commitment to auto industry."

He also explained that the need for the project was concluded after a meeting in 2012 with TRC leaders to see where the center could be improved.



June 13, 2013

State Funds Spent To Repave High-Speed Test Track

[WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

EAST LIBERTY, Ohio - Millions of dollars in state funds were spent to repave a high-speed test track used by auto makers.

The track is run by a nonprofit company called the Transportation Research Center (TRC), but almost a third of the \$16 million price tag was paid with taxpayer money.

The company said the 40-year-old track needed repaving, and it's used by auto manufacturers and government agencies to test cars.

"Anyone that is or has marketed a car in the U.S. is or has been a customer here," said Rick Gildow, president of TRC.

The test track generated more than \$40 million in 2010, and the state gave the company \$6 million to help with the project.

The 7.5-mile track employs hundreds of full-time employees, and 85 percent of the company's contracts are with out-of-state companies.

But one of the biggest customers is Honda, in Central Ohio.

"Honda is a tremendous asset for Ohio, and this track is one of the jewels we have," Gov. John Kasich said.

Kasich said a bumpy ride he took at the track last year convinced him to spend \$3 million in a JobsOhio sponsored grant, and another \$3 million from ODOT's capital fund on the project. Honda kicked in another \$10, but is it worth the price tag?

"Now, being able to fix it, being able to shine it up and display it around the country is going to mean more jobs, more revenue, more technology, and all good for the state of Ohio," Kasich said. "It is a fantastic investment. It also sends a message. Ohio is happening. We are not a fly-over state anymore. It's a place where you ought to show up. We know what we are doing and if you want to be part of the future, you move to Ohio," Kasich said.

"This facility did what it was designed to do. It attracted jobs to the state of Ohio and continues to offer job growth here in the state of Ohio," Girdow said.

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