



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Norwalk Rail Spur Project helps “Spur” New \$3.7 Million Investment**

NORWALK, OH (October 13, 2009) – NORWALK, OH (October 13, 2009) – Excitement was in the air as observers and participants took part in the Norwalk Rail Spur Project’s ribbon cutting ceremony Monday morning.

Among the guests at the celebratory event at New Horizons Baking Company, 211 Woodlawn Avenue, were Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher, Huron County Commissioners Gary Bauer and Larry Silcox, Norwalk Mayor Sue Lesch, representatives from the Wheeling and Lake Erie Company, the corporate leadership of New Horizons Baking Company and many community stakeholders.

In June of this year, Huron County’s Norwalk Rail Spur Development Project was awarded \$220,000 in grant funds and financing assistance from the Ohio Department of Development’s Industrial Site Improvement Fund and the Ohio Rail Development Commission. Ellen Heinz, Director of Norwalk Economic Development Corporation, said these funds will enable New Horizons Baking Company to have one of their largest commodities transported in via rail.

The grant and loan dollars complement the substantial financial match already committed to the project by New Horizons Baking Company.

New Horizons Baking Company is a major supplier of restaurant baked goods. This privately owned firm produces more than 2 million buns, English muffins, and other baked goods daily for McDonald’s restaurants throughout Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. New Horizons employs 260 people at its plants in Norwalk, Ohio and Fremont, Indiana.

During the ceremony, Tim Brown, Owner, President and CEO of New Horizons Baking Company, announced that this award and the efforts by state and local economic development agencies helped them make a very important decision. “We have decided to move forward with a new \$3.7 million dollar project here in Norwalk, which will be an expansion and upgrade to our facility,” stated Brown.

“This is outstanding news for the entire Norwalk community! It is truly something to celebrate.” Heinz added “New Horizons’ announcement comes at a time when few communities have area businesses willing to reinvest. We are very fortunate that they chose to reinvest in Norwalk, in Huron County. The progressive and innovative nature of these projects demonstrates the visionary leadership of Tim Brown and the entire New Horizons team. New Horizons Baking Company is an outstanding corporate and community partner. This is the perfect example of why business retention efforts deserve top priority.”

“We are very happy to continue to grow our business in Huron County. We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support and commitment of Norwalk Mayor Sue Lesch, Ellen Heinz from the Norwalk Economic Development Corporation and the Huron County Commissioners,” said Trina Bediako, Executive Vice President of New Horizons Baking Company.

The new \$3.7 million dollar investment is scheduled to start in the next several weeks with completion targeted at spring 2010.##