

# OPINION

## THE PLAIN DEALER

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### TIF legislation puts Towpath on track

Let me add our voice of thanks to Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman and his colleagues for their support of the Steelyard Commons tax increment financing (TIF) legislation. Their action should dispel doubts about the city's commitment to this growing regional priority. It's noteworthy that this feat bridged two mayoral administrations.

Further credit should go to developer Mitchell Schneider and his First Interstate Team, including Nancy Lesic of Lesic & Camper. With nothing personal to gain, Schneider stayed the course and demonstrated great

patience and perseverance.

The Steelyard TIF alone will not raise the needed funds for building the Towpath and Canal Basin Park (\$65 million). It does, however, provide a significant fiscal platform from which to leverage other funding.

To that end, we will continue to engage our congressmen and apply for federal transportation funding. Soon, we will submit a request in the next state capital bill. Finally, we are quantifying funding gaps and anticipate a significant financial role for local foundations and corporations.

TIM DONOVAN  
*Cleveland*

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