

# Delaware developments not in the works yet, despite planned demolition at taxpayer expense

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DELAWARE, Ohio (WSYX) — The state of Ohio is allocating more than \$20 million for demolition around the state, including four sites in Delaware County.

It's supposed to promote economic development but plans either have not been set or are planned for three of the four projects around the county.

State funds will go to the demolition of a building in Powell along North Liberty Road on the northwest side of the city's four corners of downtown.

The building formerly was home to a drive-thru, a Subway restaurant, and a carry-out. A Powell city official said the project is a great first step to help pay for the more than \$200,000 demolition. A private developer is considering a multi-use facility on the site, but no plans are in place yet.

In Delaware, more than \$150,000 will go to remove two buildings on Spring St. They sit between Ohio Wesleyan University's Ross Art Museum and the student center. The plan had

been to build a hotel on the site, but an economic development official with the city said that the project is on hold and may be revisited next year.

In Sunbury, \$100,000, will be spent to remove two vacant houses across Columbus Street from the city's municipal offices. A city official said a parking lot and small park will replace them to serve a growing downtown area and the Ohio to Erie Trail, still under development.

Near Ostrander, \$34,000 will be used to demolish a privately owned home at the corner of State Route 257 and Penn Road. A Scioto Township Trustee said the home has been abandoned and empty for 15-to-20 years and that the township is grateful to get the eyesore removed. No economic development project is planned to replace it.