

News from the Ohio Turnpike

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ohio Turnpike Construction season winds down in time for holidays

BEREA (Nov. 15, 2016) The Ohio Turnpike's 2016 construction season is winding down, which means customers can expect smooth travel for their Thanksgiving holiday travel.

By mid-December, construction crews will have completed projects to upgrade the road, bridges, service plaza parking pavement and other infrastructure. All 2016 projects were budgeted for \$145 million, the Turnpike's largest capital improvement program in 15 years.

"Our customers expect a safe and smooth travel experience and our investments are instrumental in providing that value," said Executive Director Randy Cole. "As our construction season winds down, please be safe by observing posted speed limits and driving without distractions."

To limit delays for customers, the Commission maintained two lanes of traffic in all three-lane sections of the Turnpike during peak travel times. Some single lane zones were necessary, but occurred mostly during off-peak travel times or overnight.

As part of the program, the Ohio Turnpike invested approximately \$76 million to replace original pavement from the early 1950s. The Turnpike replaced pavement in five-mile long sections in **Erie County** in the eastbound lanes from Groton Township to Oxford Township (milepost 107.3 to 112.45) and in the westbound lanes in **Lorain County** from Elyria Township to North Ridgeville (milepost 144.1 to 149.2)

In **Portage County**, a five-mile section was replaced from Streetsboro to Shalersville Township (milepost 186.35 to 191.3). Another five-mile long section also was replaced in the eastbound lanes in **Trumbull County** from Lordstown to Austintown Township (milepost 216.9 to 221.2). The opposite lanes in these sections were completed in 2015.

Customers are encouraged to visit www.ohioturnpike.org, or follow the Commission's Twitter or Facebook pages for up-to-date information on construction locations and traffic incidents.

Remaining 2016 Major Construction Projects from West to East

<u>Lucas and Wood Counties (Springfield Twp. to Lake Twp./Milepost 55.45 – 69.3), Pavement Repairs and Resurfacing</u>

Eastbound and westbound Ohio Turnpike customers traveling in this area will encounter mostly night-time single lane closures on the mainline for pavement repairs and resurfacing. One lane in each direction will be maintained at all times.

Estimated final completion date: Nov. 22, 2016

Erie County (Groton Twp. to Oxford Twp./Milepost 107.3 – 112.4), Pavement Replacement

As of Nov. 5, east and westbound Ohio Turnpike customers returned to a normal traffic pattern. All three lanes are now open and a 70 mph speed limit is in effect following removal and replacement of the original base pavement in the eastbound right and center lanes between milepost 107.3 to 112.4 in Erie County. The toll plaza at Exit-110 (Sandusky/SR 4) is now open for entry and exit in both directions. Some additional daily work zones will be needed for punch list items until approximately Dec. 2, 2016.

Estimated final completion date: Dec. 2, 2016.

Lorain County (Elyria Twp. to North Ridgeville/ Milepost 144.1 – 149.2), Pavement Replacement

As of Nov. 4, east and westbound Ohio Turnpike customers returned to a normal traffic pattern. All three lanes are now open and a 70 mph speed limit is in effect following removal and replacement of the original base pavement in the eastbound right and center lanes between milepost 144.1-149.2 in Lorain County. The Exit-145 (Lorain-Elyria/SR 57) toll plaza is now open for entry and exit in both directions. Some additional daily work zones will be needed for punch list items until approximately Dec. 15, 2016.

Estimated final completion date: Dec. 15, 2016.

<u>Portage County (Streetsboro to Shalersville Twp./Milepost 186.3 – 191.3). Pavement</u> Replacement

As of Nov. 4, east and westbound Ohio Turnpike customers returned to a normal traffic pattern. All three lanes are now open and a 70 mph speed limit is in effect following removal and replacement of the original base pavement in the eastbound right and center lanes between milepost 186.3 – 191.3 in Portage County. Turnpike Exit 187 (Streetsboro/I-480/SR 14) is now open for entry and exit in both directions. Some additional limited work zones will be needed for punch list items until approximately Nov. 23, 2016.

Estimated final completion date: Nov. 23, 2016.

<u>Trumbull and Mahoning Counties (Jackson Twp. to Austintown Twp./Milepost 216.1 to 221.2),</u> <u>Pavement Replacement</u>

As of Nov. 4, east and westbound Ohio Turnpike customers returned to a normal traffic pattern. Three lanes are now open and a 70 mph speed limit is in effect following removal and replacement of the original base pavement in the eastbound right and center lanes between milepost 216.9 - 221.2 in Mahoning County.

Turnpike Exit-218 (Youngstown/ I-80/I76) is open for entry and exit in both directions. Some additional limited work zones will be needed for punch list items until approximately Dec. 4, 2016.

Estimated final completion date: Dec. 4, 2016.

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