



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Commission approves 2017 capital budget with eye toward service and future

Turnpike will have fewer work zones than previous two years and test connected vehicle technology

BEREA (Dec. 19, 2016) – At its regular meeting today, the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission took steps toward improving the customer travel experience and the future safety of transportation on the Ohio Turnpike.

Included in the \$121.4 million capital budget for 2017 are resources for roadway improvements, such as pavement replacement and resurfacing, bridge rehabilitation and an investment of \$714,000 in technology to prepare for the future when vehicles are communicating with each other and the roadway.

The budget takes into account feedback from customers regarding the high number of projects that were constructed in 2016 and 2015.

“Our emphasis in 2017 is that we’ll continue to make improvements to ensure reliable travel but we’ll have less congestion in work zones because we’ll have 25 percent fewer lane miles under construction,” said Executive Director Randy Cole. “We heard loud and clear from our customers last summer. They want fewer orange barrels so we are carefully balancing customer preference with the pace of our program for improvements.”

PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION:

In addition to working with self-driving technology innovators such as Otto, the Turnpike in 2017 will begin to deploy Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) (connected vehicle) technology. Installation of the technology will take place on the mainline in its Boston and Amherst Maintenance Sections between mileposts 126.4 in Erie County (Berlin Township) and 187.5 in Portage County (Streetsboro).

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In addition, 40 Ohio Turnpike maintenance vehicles will be equipped with onboard units that will gather and supply data to managers monitoring the fleet's activity.

PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT:

Continuing a program that began in 2011 that recognizes the age of much of the original pavement across 241 miles, the Turnpike will replace pavement in a five-mile long section in the eastbound lanes in Sandusky County from milepost 90 to 95.9 (between Sandusky and Riley Townships).

Five-mile long sections also will be replaced in 2016 in Erie County in the westbound lanes from milepost 107.3 to 112.45 (between Groton and Oxford Townships) and in Portage County from milepost 186.35 to 191.39 (between Streetsboro and Shalersville Township). The Commission has approved a combined project budget for pavement replacement of \$45.5 million.

PAVEMENT RESURFACING

Four resurfacing projects are scheduled for 2017 totaling approximately \$21.6 million. These projects will include resurfacing the pavement of the right and center lanes from milepost 69.3 to 74.15 (between Lake and Troy Townships) in Wood and Ottawa Counties and resurfacing all three lanes and both shoulders from milepost 136.1 to 144.1 in Lorain County (between Brownhelm and Elyria).

In Cuyahoga County, the left lane and left shoulder will be resurfaced from milepost 160.1 to 169.1 (between Strongsville and Broadview Heights) with construction taking place from August until October of 2017. In addition, in Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, the interchange at Exit 173-Akron/Cleveland, will undergo pavement reconstruction, repairs and resurfacing of select ramps from May through October, 2017.

BRIDGE REPAIRS/REHABILITATION

Bridge repairs and rehabilitations also are in the budget for 2017 with \$16.6 million dedicated to their improvements. The bridge repairs include deck replacements, miscellaneous bridge rehabilitations, and substructure repair at various sites, including five deck replacements and one

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bridge removal at mileposts 122.3, 128.5, 132.4 138, 138.2 (bridge removal) and 145.8 in Erie and Lorain Counties. In Cuyahoga County, the SR 252 bridge over the turnpike at milepost 156.9 (Olmsted Falls) will undergo a bridge deck replacement and rehabilitation.

In Summit and Portage Counties, bridge bearings, joints and decks will be replaced on overhead bridges at mileposts 178, 179.5 and 199.2.

In Mahoning County, six mainline bridges and one ramp bridge from milepost 222.8 to 232.9 will undergo bearing and deck joint replacements and two bridge deck replacements are planned at milepost 240.8 east and westbound.

Note: Information regarding these projects, construction zones and/or changes to traffic patterns that may affect customers is posted on the Ohio Turnpike's website, at the start of construction season in April and May. Changes to traffic patterns due to daily maintenance, weather and other factors is also routinely provided on the Ohio Turnpike's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

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The Ohio Turnpike is a 241-mile toll road offering one of the safest, best and most convenient routes for motorists to reach east/west destinations along the northern corridor of Ohio. The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission provides excellent customer service and amenities to meet travelers' wants and needs, including state-of-the-art service plazas, a variety of restaurant choices, and routine maintenance for a smooth, pleasant trip. For a better travel experience, choose the Ohio Turnpike.