



News from the Ohio Turnpike

682 Prospect Street, Berea, Ohio 44017-2799

Phone: 440.234.2081 – Fax: 440.234.3881

For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike commemorates 60th anniversary near Youngstown

Local elected and Turnpike officials marked the official opening of the Turnpike at Exit 239 near the Pa. border

BEREA (Oct. 1, 2015) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission today paid tribute to the official opening of the Ohio Turnpike, which occurred on Oct. 1, 1955. At 12:01 a.m., Gov. Frank J. Lausche declared, “Remove all barricades. Open the gates and let the traffic flow!”

Turnpike Chairman Jerry N. Hruby said the first concrete for paving was poured at the eastern end of the Turnpike in Mahoning County. This action also marked the physical linking of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Turnpikes. “Later, a 22-mile long section was opened on Dec. 1, 1954 to ease traffic on local highways in the Youngstown area,” said Hruby. “It was a good decision because it gave the Commission experience in operating and policing a toll road prior to opening all 241 miles less than a year later,” he added.

Executive Director Randy Cole contrasted the Turnpike of the past, with the Turnpike of today and looked ahead to the future. “The Ohio Turnpike is a bold and successful enterprise with a significant economic impact on northern Ohio communities.”

The Ohio Turnpike is responsible for generating more than \$500 million in northern Ohio economic activity each year. In addition to its 950 employees, there are approximately 3,000 more workers employed in jobs that are affiliated with 14 Service Plazas, which also generate significant local sales taxes.

The Turnpike also adds value, according the Commission, by providing thousands of construction jobs supported through its Capital Program and through future toll revenues. In fact, up to \$125 million will be invested in the Turnpike’s own infrastructure by the close of the 2015 season.

In addition, by leveraging future toll revenues as part of Gov. John Kasich’s Ohio Jobs and Transportation Plan, the Commission is providing \$1.5 billion in new infrastructure projects in northern Ohio. The Canfield High School Symphonic Band and Cardinal Pride performed today, as their predecessors did at the opening of the 22-mile section of the Ohio Turnpike on Dec. 1, 1954.

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For more information please contact:

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News from the Ohio Turnpike

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Phone: 440.234.2081 – Fax: 440.234.3881

For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike commemorates 60th anniversary in Perrysburg

Local elected and Turnpike officials marked the official opening of the Turnpike at Exit-64/Perrysburg

BEREA (Oct. 1, 2015) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission today paid tribute to the official opening of the Ohio Turnpike, which occurred on Oct. 1, 1955. At 12:01 a.m., Gov. Frank J. Lausche declared, “Remove all barricades. Open the gates and let the traffic flow!”

Turnpike Chairman Jerry N. Hruby recalled the difficulty that engineers and construction crews faced while working long ago in nearby Williams and Fulton Counties. “They faced several obstacles of what was originally the Black Swamp,” said Hruby. “They had to dig through more than 70 feet of spongy soil, the remains of peat bogs, in order to finally reach a firm base. We salute their determination to get the job done.”

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The Turnpike also adds value, according the Commission, by providing thousands of construction jobs supported through its Capital Program and through future toll revenues. In fact, up to \$125 million will be invested in the Turnpike’s own infrastructure by the close of the 2015 season.

In addition, by leveraging future toll revenues as part of Gov. John Kasich’s Ohio Jobs and Transportation Plan, the Commission is providing more than \$1 billion in new infrastructure projects in northern Ohio. A unit of the Perrysburg High School Marching Band performed at the event.

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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike commemorates 60th anniversary in Berea

Local elected and Turnpike officials marked the official opening of the Turnpike at Administration building

BEREA (Oct. 1, 2015) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission today paid tribute to the official opening of the Ohio Turnpike, which occurred on Oct. 1, 1955. At 12:01 a.m., Gov. Frank J. Lausche declared, “Remove all barricades. Open the gates and let the traffic flow!”

Turnpike Chairman Jerry N. Hruby told a couple hundred audience members that along the way during construction, there were four major rivers to cross. The widest river valley to cross was the Cuyahoga River where it flows in Summit County. “It required the longest structure of the project, as set of half-mile long twin bridges that spanned 2,682 feet across,” said Hruby.

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The Ohio Turnpike is responsible for generating more than \$500 million in northern Ohio economic activity each year. In addition to its 950 employees, there are approximately 3,000 more workers employed in jobs that are affiliated with 14 Service Plazas, which also generate significant local sales taxes.

The Turnpike also adds value, according the Commission, by providing thousands of construction jobs supported through its Capital Program and through future toll revenues. In fact, up to \$125 million will be invested in the Turnpike’s own infrastructure by the close of the 2015 season.

In addition, by leveraging future toll revenues as part of Gov. John Kasich’s Ohio Jobs and Transportation Plan, the Commission is providing more than \$1 billion in new infrastructure projects in northern Ohio. The Berea-Midpark High School Marching Band, 175 members strong, performed at the event today.

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