



## *News from the Ohio Turnpike Commission*

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### **Ohio Turnpike highlights an exceptional safety record**

BEREA, OH – January 9, 2012 - The Ohio Turnpike Commission (“Commission”) is pleased to announce that last year was an exceptionally safe one for motorists. A recent Ohio Turnpike report indicates that traffic-related deaths in 2011 match the lowest number previously recorded in a year, when six fatalities occurred during 1955.

“The Commission continues to work diligently with the Ohio State Highway Patrol (District 10), and while we strive for a fatality-free safety record every year, the Commission is encouraged by this report,” stated Executive Director Rick Hodges, pointing out that the improved safety record occurred in the same year that the Commission adopted the 70 MPH speed limit for all vehicles. This statistic is especially notable due to the fact that the number of vehicles using the turnpike increased from 4.9 million in 1955 to 49.2 million in 2011.

The Commission works in conjunction with the OSHP to maintain a safe travel experience for motorists. “Of course, despite our most persistent efforts to enforce the speed limit and monitor driving behavior, safety lies in the hands of drivers and is their responsibility,” explained District 10 Capt. Chris Zurcher. While other factors such as inclement weather, roadway obstacles and distracted driving have an effect on the safety record, “ultimately, improving driving behavior such as obeying the posted speed limit, paying attention, and resting when needed will continue to lead to these types of encouraging reports,” added Captain Zurcher.

The Commission shall continue to strive to operate one of the safest roads in the nation.

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