



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike commemorates its 70th anniversary in Berea

Officials marked the opening of Ohio's first superhighway on Oct. 1, 1955

BEREA (Oct. 2, 2025) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission paid tribute to the official opening of the Ohio Turnpike yesterday, which occurred on Oct. 1, 1955. At 12:01 a.m., then Gov. Frank J. Lausche declared, “Remove all barricades. Open the gates and let the traffic flow!”

Ohio Turnpike Chairman Jerry Hruby told about 400 audience members that during construction over the course of 38 months, 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, a set of half-mile long twin bridges that spanned 2,682 feet across the river,” said Hruby.

Executive Director Ferzan Ahmed, P.E., provided a glimpse of the Turnpike’s future: “The Ohio Turnpike will emphasize safety, convenience and value. While improving our safety and convenience for customers, we will always strive to maintain our value by keeping our toll rates the lowest in the region.”

The Ohio Turnpike is responsible for generating about \$750 million in northern Ohio economic activity each year. In addition to its nearly 800 employees, there are approximately 1,200 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 to the Commission, by providing hundreds of construction jobs supported through its capital program and through future toll revenues. In fact, up to \$320 million will be invested in the Turnpike’s infrastructure by the close of the 2025 season.

The Berea-Midpark High School Marching Band, led by Director Brett Benzin, performed at the event on Oct. 1, 2025.

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