



## News from the Ohio Turnpike

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### Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission Approves \$233 Million Capital Budget for Numerous Projects in 2022

***Raising awareness of work zone safety during the construction season is a top priority, says the turnpike commission.***

BEREA, Ohio (March 29, 2022) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission will invest up to \$233 million on toll road modernization, mainline pavement replacement, resurfacing, bridge, and other projects in 2022.

As the nine-month construction season is set to begin, it's also an opportunity to remind motorists about driving safely in and around work zones along the 241-mile Ohio Turnpike or any other roadway under construction.

"Raising awareness of work zone safety on behalf of our roadway crews, contractors and motorists during the construction season is a top priority," said Ferzan Ahmed, executive director of the turnpike commission. "When driving through work zones, it's important for motorists to establish a safe following distance, maintain the work zone speed limit, pay attention to the signs, avoid distractions, and be prepared to slow down or stop."

There were 1,443 vehicle crashes in work zones on the Ohio Turnpike from 2016-2020, averaging 289 crashes per year over the same five-year period, according to statistics provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

"Speeding in work zones is a primary cause of crashes," Ahmed added. "The Highway Patrol will be conducting speed enforcement, including aerial enforcement, in work zones on the Ohio Turnpike during the construction season."

Here's the list of the major projects for 2022:

#### **Toll Collection System Modernization Projects (\$76.2 million), include:**

- Construction of the new mainline Westgate Toll Plaza 4 in Edon, Ohio (Williams County);
- Construction of the new mainline Toll Plaza 211 in Newton Falls, Ohio (Trumbull County);
- Renovation of the mainline Eastgate Toll Plaza 239 in New Springfield, Ohio (Mahoning County);
- Expansion of Toll Plaza 64 (Wood County) and Toll Plaza 152 (Lorain County);
- Infrastructure upgrades to install new tolling equipment at 20 interchanges from Toll Plaza 52 to Toll Plaza 209 (Lucas, Wood, Sandusky, Erie, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage and Trumbull counties);
- Automatic traffic recorders at nine toll plazas (Williams, Fulton, Trumbull and Mahoning counties);
- Weigh-in motion systems at three milepost locations (Ottawa, Lorain and Portage counties); and
- New toll collection hardware/equipment installation at 21 existing toll plazas and three new toll plazas.

Construction of the new mainline Westgate Toll Plaza at milepost 3.6 in Edon (Williams County) and the new mainline Toll Plaza at milepost 211 in Newton Falls (Trumbull County) are part of the Ohio Turnpike's new Toll Collection System (TCS), which will modernize and improve the turnpike experience for both passenger car and commercial truck customers.

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“We are about one year away from open road tolling on the Ohio Turnpike, which is scheduled to debut in spring 2023. Once complete, our *E-ZPass* customers will be able to travel the full length of the 241-mile Ohio Turnpike at highway speeds without stopping,” Ahmed added. “Customers, who save an average of 33% on tolls with *E-ZPass*, will continue to receive discounted toll rates when traveling through gateless *E-ZPass* entry and exit lanes. Motorists without *E-ZPass* will still have the option to exit the turnpike and pay their tolls with cash or credit card at gated toll lanes.”

The new mainline Toll Plaza at milepost 49 in Swanton, Ohio (Fulton/Lucas counties), which was completed in 2021, is currently being used to test components of the new system. The existing mainline Eastgate Toll Plaza in New Springfield at milepost 239 (Mahoning County) will be renovated to function like the three new mainline toll plazas.

The new construction of Toll Plaza 211 and the toll booth renovations at Toll Plaza 239 will be performed by A.P. O’Horo Company (Youngstown, Ohio). Construction of the new Westgate Toll Plaza at milepost 3.6 will be performed by Action Contractors, LLC (Bedford, Ohio).

In addition to the new toll plazas on the mainline, Toll Plaza 64 (Wood County) and Toll Plaza 152 (Lorain County) will both be expanded by the construction of concrete toll islands, toll booths and canopies and other structural work to relieve congestion during periods of high traffic volume.

Mosser Construction, Inc. (Fremont, Ohio) will perform the work at Toll Plaza 64 at a cost of \$3.8 million; and Action Contractors, LLC (Bedford, Ohio) will perform the work at Toll Plaza 152 at a cost of \$2.8 million. The work includes electrical, communications and HVAC/mechanical improvements, and related work for the new and existing toll booths, dynamic message signs and TCS integration work.

Twenty interchanges, from Toll Plaza 52 to Toll Plaza 209 (Lucas, Wood, Sandusky, Erie, Lorain, Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage and Trumbull counties), will be upgraded with new tolling equipment, which includes the installation of all new electronic hardware, such as automated toll payment machines, cameras, and cabinets to encase computers, as well as additional electrical and structural work for TCS integration.

Regent Electric, Inc. (Toledo, Ohio) and Yates Electric, Inc. (Aliquippa, Pa.) will perform the work from April 25, 2022, through February 2023, which also includes minor pavement repairs in the toll lanes following the removal of underground electronic devices and sensors that were used to classify and weigh vehicles. The project will cost more than \$10 million, which includes contractor costs, and administration, inspection and testing fees.

Automatic traffic recorders (ATR), which is a camera system that can count and classify traffic along the mainline of the turnpike, are being installed at toll plazas 13, 25, 34 and 39 (Williams and Fulton counties) and toll plazas 215, 216, 218, 232 and 234 (Trumbull and Mahoning counties). Part of the ATR project, which costs \$376,050 for the construction the infrastructure components, began in 2021 and will be completed by Perram Electric, Inc. (Wadsworth, Ohio) in March 2022 followed by hardware and software installation and system testing.

Weigh-in motion (WIM) systems, which involve pavement sensors to weigh trucks as they are driving at highway speeds and detect and enforce overweight vehicles, are being installed along the turnpike mainline in both eastbound and westbound directions at mileposts 79.8 and 141.1 (Ottawa and Lorain counties, respectively) and westbound at milepost 198.6 (Portage County). The project to install infrastructure components, which costs \$3.7 million, began in 2021 and will be completed by Kokosing Construction Company, Inc. (Elyria, Ohio) in March 2022 followed by system testing.

Conduent State and Local Solutions, Inc. (Germantown, Md.) was awarded the contract for the purchase, implementation and testing of the hardware and software to modernize the toll collection system (TCS), including the installation of the ATR and WIM systems equipment. The new technology will enable gateless low-speed conventional lanes and highway-speed open road tolling. The project began in 2021 and is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

### **Three mainline pavement replacement projects (\$65.7 million), include:**

- Pavement replacement, new ramps, and construction of the new Westgate Toll Plaza 4 site (Williams County)
- Pavement replacement, new ramps, and construction of the new Toll Plaza 211 site (Trumbull County)
- Pavement replacement, new ramps, and renovation of the current Toll Plaza 239 site (Mahoning County)

#### **Williams County: Pavement Replacement, New Ramps and Construction of a New Toll Plaza Site**

Construction from April 2022 to December 2022 includes full-depth excavation and pavement replacement on the eastbound lanes from milepost 2.9 to 7.26, and new ramps to the new mainline Westgate Toll Plaza at milepost 3.6.

The project will reduce travel in the eastbound direction to one lane while maintaining two lanes westbound in a bi-directional work zone on the westbound side. Construction on the westbound side was completed in 2021.

In 2023, pavement will be replaced from the Ohio/Indiana border to milepost 2.9, which includes the demolition of the current Westgate Toll Plaza.

The Beaver Excavating Company (Canton, Ohio) was awarded a \$67.6 million contract in 2020 to complete the three-year project, which also includes the construction of new open road *E-ZPass* tolling lanes.

#### **Trumbull County: Pavement Replacement, New Ramps and Construction of a New Toll Plaza Site**

Construction from March 2022 to December 2022 includes full-depth excavation and pavement replacement in the eastbound right and left lanes and outside shoulder from milepost 208.17 to milepost 212.76, and new ramps to the new mainline Toll Plaza 211.

The project will maintain traffic in two lanes in both directions utilizing contra-flow in the westbound direction. Construction on the westbound side was completed in 2021.

The Shelly Company (Twinsburg, Ohio) was awarded a \$45.7 million contract in 2020 to complete the two-year project, which also includes the construction of new open road *E-ZPass* tolling lanes.

#### **Mahoning County: Pavement Replacement, New Ramps and Renovation of the Current Toll Plaza Site**

Construction from April 2022 to December 2022 includes full-depth excavation and pavement replacement on the westbound side from milepost 241.25 to milepost 236.34, and new ramps to the renovated Eastgate Toll Plaza at milepost 239, which will process tolls on the westbound side when the new Toll Collection System goes live in spring 2023.

This project will maintain two lanes of traffic eastbound into the mainline Eastgate Toll Plaza 239 and reduce westbound travel out of the toll plaza to one lane in a bi-directional work zone. Construction on the eastbound side was completed in 2021.

Shelly & Sands, Inc. (North Jackson, Ohio) was awarded a \$39.9 million contract in 2020 to complete the three-year project, which also includes the construction of new open road *E-ZPass* tolling lanes.

**Four resurfacing projects, which will remove and replace asphalt, upgrade guardrails and other roadway work (\$36.2 million), include:**

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** All three lanes and all shoulders in both westbound and eastbound directions from milepost 73.95 to 80.5 (Wood, Ottawa and Sandusky counties).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** April 2022 to October 2022

**COMPANY:** The Shelly Company – Northwest Division (Findlay, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$14.1 million (includes construction administration and testing fees)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** There will be long-term lane closures on the mainline down to two lanes in each direction during the day with single lane zones (one lane of traffic) restricted to nighttime.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** The right and center lanes and right shoulder from milepost 178.05 to 185.65 (Summit County) and resurfacing the ramps at Exit 187 (Portage County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** April 2022 to October 2022

**COMPANY:** The Shelly Company – Northeast Division (Twinsburg, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$14.7 million (includes construction administration and testing fees)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** There will be long-term lane closures on the mainline down to two lanes in each direction during the day with single lane zones (one lane of traffic) restricted to nighttime.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** The ramps at Exit 118 (Erie County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** August 2022 – November 2022

**COMPANY:** To be determined (TBD)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** TBD

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** Minimal single lane closures.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** The car and truck parking areas at the Great Lakes and Towpath service plazas at milepost 170.1 (Cuyahoga County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** August 2022 – November 2022

**COMPANY:** TBD

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** TBD

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** Minimal single lane closures.

**Five bridge projects, which includes widening and deck replacement, removal and repainting of 11 bridges (\$31.6 million), include:**

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** Widening and deck replacement of the mainline bridges at milepost 40.3 over State Route 109 and milepost 40.5 over the Indiana and Ohio Railway in Pike Township (Fulton County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** April 1, 2022 – Oct. 31, 2023

**COMPANY:** Kokosing Construction Company (Elyria, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$11.7 million (includes construction administration and testing fees)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** There will be temporary lane closures on both the mainline and State Route 109.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** Removal of the mainline bridge at milepost 98.9 over abandoned railroad and redecking the mainline bridge at milepost 99.1 over State Route 510 in Riley Township (Sandusky County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** April 1, 2022 – Dec. 3, 2023

**COMPANY:** Kokosing Construction Company (Elyria, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$6.2 million (includes construction administration and testing fees)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** There will be long-term lane closures on the mainline down to two lanes in each direction. There will be temporary lane closures on State Route 510.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** Replacement of the Exit 151 eastbound deceleration ramp bridge at milepost 151.3 and redecking the ramp bridge over Lorain Road at milepost 152.3 in North Ridgeville (Lorain County); and redecking the Jennings Road overhead bridge at milepost 153.9 in Olmsted Township (Cuyahoga County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** April 1, 2022 – Oct. 31, 2022

**COMPANY:** Suburban Maintenance and Construction (North Royalton, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$4.3 million (includes construction administration and testing fees)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** Traffic will be maintained on both ramps and traffic will be detoured on Jennings Road.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** Redecking the East Edgerton Road overhead bridge at milepost 169.6 in Broadview Heights (Cuyahoga County) and replacement of the State Route 21/Brecksville Road bridge at milepost 172.9 in Richfield (Summit County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** March 14, 2022 – October 2023

**COMPANY:** The Great Lakes Construction Co. (Hinckley, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$7.5 million (includes construction administration and testing fees)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** Traffic will be detoured on East Edgerton Road. Traffic will be maintained on State Route 21 and there will be temporary lane closures on the mainline.

**PROJECT/LOCATION:** Final paving and the repainting of the mainline bridges at milepost 222.7 over Turner Road and milepost 222.8 over Kirk Road in Austintown Township (Mahoning County).

**CONSTRUCTION DATES:** April 1, 2022 – July 30, 2022

**COMPANY:** The Ruhlin Company (Sharon Center, Ohio)

**TOTAL ANTICIPATED COST:** \$1.9 million (budgeted amount remaining to be spent in 2022)

**TRAFFIC UPDATE:** There will be temporary lane closures on the mainline and on Kirk and Turner roads.

**NOTE:** *To limit delays for customers, the Ohio Turnpike Commission strives to maintain two lanes of traffic in all three lane sections of the turnpike during peak travel times. Some single lane zones will be necessary but will occur mostly during off-peak travel times or at night. Most projects are expected to be completed by December 2022.*

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