



## *News from the Ohio Turnpike*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Connecting with Customers on the Ohio Turnpike**

***Next Up: A customer appreciation event will be held at Mahoning Valley Service Plaza in New Springfield on Friday, June 24.***

BEREA, Ohio (June 9, 2022) – After a two-year hiatus, the Ohio Turnpike’s customer appreciation events have recommenced for 2022. Six events have been scheduled at various service plazas along the 241-mile Ohio Turnpike this year.

Ahead of Memorial Day and the summer travel season, thousands of turnpike travelers from Ohio and beyond attended the first event of the year, which was held at Commodore Perry Service Plaza at milepost 100 eastbound in Clyde on Friday, May 27.

“Our customer appreciation events provide a fun and engaging experience for travelers and local residents and their respective families to meet with staff from the Ohio Turnpike and troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol,” said Ferzan Ahmed, executive director of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission. “It’s also a great way to express our gratitude to our customers who choose to travel on the Ohio Turnpike.”

The Ohio Turnpike’s service plaza partners, AVI Foodsystems provided \$1 hot dogs and other items for lunch, and Applegreen USA Welcome Centers provided complimentary samples from Starbucks and Auntie Anne’s. Kona Ice provided flavored ice cones, courtesy of the Ohio Turnpike.

During the nearly four-hour meet-and-greet, officials from the Ohio Turnpike and the OSHP reminded motorists to drive safely on the roadways during the 100 deadliest days of summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and to be especially aware of roadway and construction crews working on the highway.

“When driving through work zones, motorists must maintain a safe following distance, obey the speed limit, avoid distractions, and be prepared to slow down or stop,” Ahmed added. “In addition, when passing all stationary vehicles with flashing lights on the side of all roadways, motorists are required by law to move over and slow down. At the end of the day, the highway workers need to go home to their families just like the rest of us.”

May was also National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and the beginning of a seasonal increase in the number of motorcycles traveling on Ohio roadways. Ohio Bike Week 2022 was held in Sandusky from May 27 to June 5.

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“Motorcycle safety is a shared responsibility among all on our roadways,” said OSHP Lt. Brett Gockstetter, Milan post commander. “We encourage motorcyclists to wear their protective gear, ride trained and sober, and have a motorcycle endorsement. All simple steps to keep themselves and others safe on our roadways.”

Inside the service plaza, travelers could spin an electronic prize wheel for a chance to win numerous prizes from the Ohio Turnpike, including \$25 gas cards. OSHP displayed a cruiser, while troopers met with turnpike customers, discussed career opportunities, and handed out giveaways.

Outside the service plaza, the Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum, in partnership with the OSHP Retirees' Association, displayed four cruisers from its vintage fleet, which included a 1970 Plymouth Fury, 1975 Plymouth Gran Fury, 1988 Chevrolet Caprice, and 1990 Chevrolet Camaro.

The Ohio Turnpike partnered with Cumulus Broadcasting's classic rock station 94.5 WXKR in Toledo to promote the event, which included a prize giveaway contest during a remote broadcast at the service plaza.

### **Upcoming Customer Appreciation Events**

- **Friday, June 24:** Mahoning Valley Service Plaza (westbound at milepost 237.2 in New Springfield) – *Mahoning County*
- **Friday, July 15:** Portage Service Plaza (westbound at milepost 197 in Mantua) – *Portage County*
- **Friday, Aug. 5:** Indian Meadow Service Plaza (westbound at milepost 20.8 in West Unity) – *Williams County*
- **Friday, Sept. 2:** Wyandot Service Plaza (eastbound at milepost 76.9 in Genoa) – *Sandusky County*
- **Wednesday, Nov. 23:** Middle Ridge Service Plaza (westbound at milepost 139.5 in Amherst) – *Lorain County*

*(All events will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)*

### **For more information, contact:**

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