



## *News from the Ohio Turnpike*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ohio Turnpike Issues Winter Travel Ban for High-Profile Vehicles**

BEREA, Ohio (Feb. 1, 2022) – In anticipation of a major winter storm impacting the northern Ohio region, the Ohio Turnpike announced today a travel ban for all high-profile vehicles.

The travel ban – which covers the entire turnpike – runs from 7 a.m. EST on Wednesday, Feb. 2, to 12 p.m. EST on Friday, Feb. 4. The ban will be enforced by the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The following types of vehicles, which are banned from traveling the Ohio Turnpike until the ban is canceled, include:

- All Long Combination Vehicles (LCV) triple-trailer combination commercial vehicles;
- All LCV long double-trailer combination commercial vehicles (enclosed trailers only, including Conestoga type trailers) more than 90-feet in length;
- Mobile home/office trailers;
- Boat and horse trailers towed by passenger vehicles or pickup trucks; and
- High-profile campers and enclosed trailers, which are defined as trailers designed for a person of average height to stand in.

Not included in the travel ban are self-propelled motor homes, low-profile trailers, fold-down camper trailers, pickup trucks with slide-on camper units, vehicles towing fifth-wheel type trailers, or any other type of trailers towed by passenger vehicles or pickup trucks.

Also, excluded from the travel ban are commercial trucks towing single flatbed or box-type trailers, flatbed double-trailer combinations more than 90 feet and any double-trailer combination commercial vehicles less than 90 feet.

“The implemented travel ban will be continually evaluated throughout the duration of the storm,” said Ferzan Ahmed, executive director of the turnpike commission. “We are expecting moderate to heavy snow on Wednesday and Thursday; blowing and drifting snow from up to 30 mph wind gusts on Thursday and Friday; and wind chills in the single digits during this time period.”

### **Ohio Turnpike Offers Safety Tips for Motorists**

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for numerous counties across northern Ohio. First consider if travel is necessary. If you are travelling on the Ohio Turnpike during the storm, here are safety tips to consider:

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**Don't Crowd the Plow:** When the snow and ice removal crews are in action, motorists should take every precaution to avoid passing snowplows and allow extra time and space for the plow drivers to clear the road. Crews typically work together clearing multiple lanes simultaneously so make sure to give them plenty of room to work. Keep in mind the safest place to be on the road is behind a snowplow.

**Be Aware of Poor Visibility:** Heavy accumulation with blowing and drifting snow can be unpredictable causing reduced visibility and making travel conditions more difficult, especially in certain areas along the turnpike. Historically, one of the worst areas on the Ohio Turnpike for blowing and drifting snow leading to reduced visibility is between the service plazas in Clyde at milepost 100 and exit 118 (U.S. 250 – Sandusky/Norwalk), due to high winds from the Sandusky Bay and flat, wide-open fields.

**Be Prepared:** During a winter storm of this magnitude, motorists should consider traveling only when necessary. If you must travel, keep warm clothing, blankets, a flashlight, food and water, and a cell phone charger in your vehicle in case of an emergency. If your vehicle breaks down or you are involved in a crash, turn on your hazard lights, move your vehicle as far off the roadway as possible, remain in the vehicle, and call #677.

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