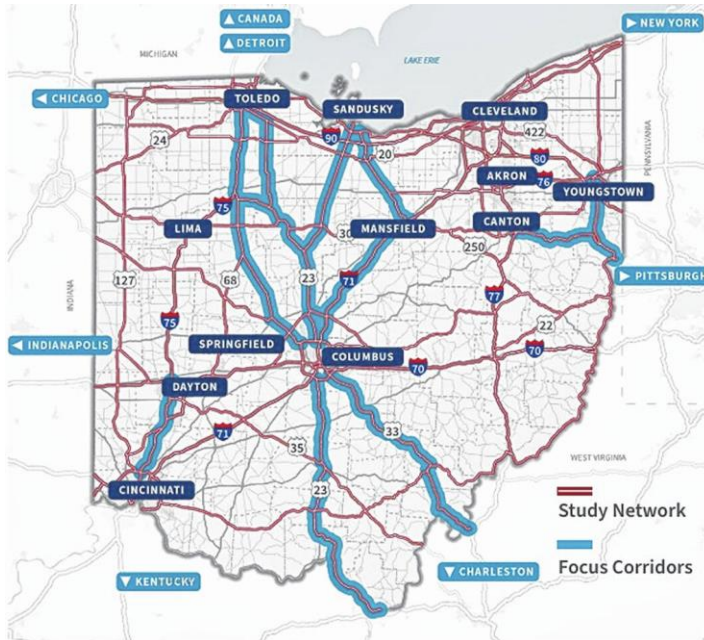
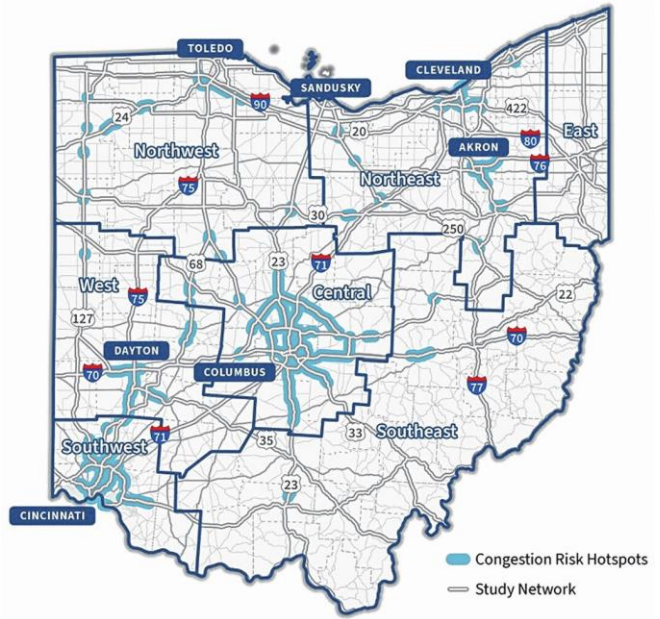


County is focus of ODOT corridors

By Gary Budzak - February 21, 2025



This map shows the focus corridors that ODOT is examining.



This map illustrates the major congestion hotspots in Ohio.

LEWIS CENTER — The Ohio Department of Transportation's just-released statewide study identifies six corridors of travel and congestion in seven geographic and economic regions, with two of them here in Delaware County.

We wanted to go into a little bit more detail on what the study's authors, the Strategic Transportation and Development Analysis Team, had to say about these focus corridors. These two corridors were "explicitly referenced in House Bill 23," the study said.

Toledo — Columbus

- A recommendation spotlight was on U.S. Route 23. "ODOT's U.S. 23 north corridor improvements, developed in tandem with this study, would reduce the 39 traffic lights to seven or fewer, reduce travel time, and improve safety," said a study walkthrough issued Feb. 14. This would be accomplished by widening lanes, adding interchanges and building overpasses.
- A 92-page Executive Summary of the study said of this corridor, "The priority recommendation is to improve U.S. 23 between Waldo and Interstate 270."
- A 127-page appendix to the study is devoted to the corridor. It notes, "Delaware and the northern Columbus suburbs will continue to grow and generate travel demand on the corridor. The Delaware County economy will continue diversifying and growing its employment base."

Sandusky — Columbus

- The Executive Summary repeated what was said of U.S. 23, “and to investigate potential improvements to S.R. 4 and U.S. 250... through existing city and town centers, primarily Bucyrus and Norwalk, and widen narrow shoulders and add turn lanes in rural areas.”
- A 109-page needs assessment appendix to the study is devoted to this corridor. The conclusions portion of the appendix repeated the recommendations for U.S. 23 in Delaware and Franklin counties, with \$7.5 million of the \$1.8 billion estimated cost currently funded.
- Routes 36 and 37 between U.S. 23 and I-71 have two projects: Sunbury Parkway construction from 36/37 to 3 B's and K Road and widening Sunbury Parkway between 3 B's and K to west of I-71. These projects cost \$83.9 million, with \$81.6 million funded.
- I-71 between routes 36/37 and I-270 “is a current and predicted congestion hotspot.” To address this would be to “construct a new interchange on I-71 with Sunbury Parkway just south of U.S. 36/S.R. 37,” the conclusion said. “Total project costs are \$156,943,000, of which \$86,943,000 is funded, leaving \$70,000,000 unfunded.”

More corridors

- Another spotlight was on the nearby Silicon Heartland. “Continue to advance studies and recommendations addressing connectivity in and around the forthcoming Intel semiconductor fabrication site in Licking County,” the walkthrough said. Those studies included U.S. 36/State Route 37.
- The other four ODOT focus corridors are: Columbus — Kentucky/West Virginia (includes U.S. 23), Columbus — West Virginia (U.S. 33), Cincinnati — Dayton (I-75), Canton/Youngstown — West Virginia/Pennsylvania (U.S. 30 and S.R. 11).

“ODOT is actively developing highway projects to expand capacity and improve operations that will manage congestion risks at 51 of the (state's) 72 hotspots,” said a factsheet issued by the agency.

Under construction

- For more information, visit <https://publicinput.com/23connect>.