

## **ODOT outlines ideas for Route 37**

By Gary Budzak - July 31, 2025

SUNBURY — More than three dozen intersections along state Route 37 in Delaware and Licking counties are being examined in a planning study for the busy corridor, the Ohio Department of Transportation said.

Some proposed improvements for many of those intersections were unveiled at morning and evening open houses held Wednesday in Big Walnut High School, 713 Miller Drive.

"New Albany and the surrounding area are experiencing substantial growth and development," said a background sheet given out by ODOT at the open house. "In anticipation of this development, ODOT and local partners have identified the S.R. 37 corridor between U.S. Route 23, Interstate 71, and S.R. 161 as an area of concern in need of further evaluation."

ODOT spokeswoman Morgan Eibel told The Gazette at the morning session the purpose of the study is to improve safety and alleviate congestion within the next decade.

"Why only consider projects within 10 years?" were among the Frequently Asked Questions for the transportation techies. ODOT's answer on an FAQ sheet: "Projects that can be reasonably implemented in the next 10 years will address proposed issues in the near-term. Ideal projects will have low impacts to adjacent properties and reasonable construction costs."

Another noteworthy question was, "It looks like my property could be impacted. What happens next?" The answer: "Should a project receive funding in the next ten years, real estate representatives will be in contact with affected property owners. No property acquisition or negotiations will occur as a part of this corridor study."

Two other projects are planned in the corridor.

- The groundbreaking for the Improved Interchange at I-71/U.S. 36/S.R. 37 and Proposed Sunbury Parkway took place last week.
- S.R. 37 and County Line Intersection Improvements in Licking County, with construction starting in 2026.

The public can weigh in on the current recommendations, which some attendees were already doing at the open house. For more information, check out the project website (<https://publicinput.com/SR37Study>) and comment by clicking that tab. Comments received by Aug. 30 will be part of the study. The feedback will help ODOT before final recommendations are made.

The Gazette will have a subsequent story on the recommended improvements for the 39 existing intersections. ODOT has said those recommendations don't mean anything is set in concrete, though.