

## **Road projects remain in pipeline**

By Gary Budzak - September 9, 2025

The Delaware County Engineer's Office (DCEO) is planning for the near future with plenty of road projects through 2029.

The office prepared an 8-page "Delaware County Silicon Heartland 20/40 Minute Group Update" in February. The presentation is available on the Delaware Regional Planning Commission website in the Current Events tab.

Whether or not the nearby Intel project comes to fruition as previously planned, laying the groundwork will still be necessary, given the county's growth. The presentation showed the once slow and steady growth trend in Delaware County to the more recent rapid population rise in a graph.

When people say this is the fastest-growing county in the state and in the county, here's why: There were only 26,401 people here in 1900; then 53,840 in 1980; up to 109,989 in 2000; now at an estimated 241,000 in 2025; and there will be a projected 265,000 people here in 2030.

A map of the county shows these high growth areas to be mainly to the east and south of the city of Delaware.

There were "Silicon Heartland Intel 20-minute Projects" listed, with 13 regional projects. Among those projects are three Ohio Department of Transportation-funded roundabouts on County Line Road bordering Licking County and costing \$13 million: At state Route 37 (Johnstown-Alexandria Road), at Center Village Road, and at Fancher Road bordering Franklin County. These would be constructed in 2027.

More specific to Delaware County are five DCEO roundabout projects: at Big Walnut and Tussic Street roads (\$4 million, construction in 2027), Big Walnut and Sunbury roads (\$3 million, 2027), Red Bank and Center Village roads (\$4 million, 2028 construction), Fancher and Harlem roads (\$3 million, 2028-2029 construction), Fancher and Miller-Paul roads (\$3 million, 2029 construction).

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission estimates that U.S. Route 42 in Delaware County lies just within what it calls the "Intel 40-Minute Ring" or commute time.

Finally, the presentation had a list/map titled "Delaware County 40-Minute Projects (2026-2029 Construction)," all within a 40-minute drive to the Intel site. "\$250+ Million in Projects — \$100+ Million in Delaware County Funds," the subhead said. Here is the list of the 20 projects, followed by cost and construction dates:

- Interstate 71/U.S. Route 36 Phases A-C – \$110M (2025-2029)
- Bale Kenyon Road, Phases 2 and 3 – \$10M (2025-26)

- Cheshire and Africa roads intersection – \$2M (2026)
- Peachblow and Piatt roads intersection – \$2M (2026)
- Berlin Station Road, Phase 2B – \$5M (2026-27)
- South Old State and Hollenback roads – \$4M (2026-27)
- Home Road Railroad Grade Separation – \$17M (2026-27)
- Shanahan Road Widening – \$6M (2026-27)
- “Five Points” intersection in Berkshire Township – \$3M (2027)
- Cheshire and Golf Course roads intersection – \$3M (2027)
- Orange Road Railroad Grade Separation – \$40M (2027-29)
- Home Road (Liberty Road to State Route 315) – \$7M (2027)
- Africa Road, Phase 1 – \$6M (2027-28)
- Berlin Station and Curve roads intersection – \$3M (2028)
- South Old State Road, Phase 2 – \$13M (2028-29)
- Roloson-Piatt roads extension – \$5M (2028-29)
- Cheshire Road Grade Separation – \$10M (2028-29)
- Liberty and Hyatts roads intersection – \$3M (2028-29)
- Liberty and Bunty Station roads – \$3M (2028-29)
- Berlin Station Road, Phase 3 – \$4M (2029).
- The Delaware County Engineer’s Office is in the Byxbe Building, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware. For more information, visit <https://engineer.co.delaware.oh.us/>.