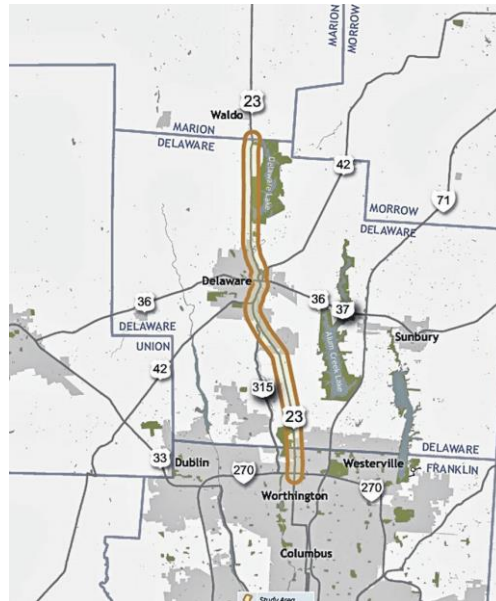


## Orange Road project in line to receive funding

By Gary Budzak – March 25, 2026



1. This map shows the individual parcels located near the intersection of US Route 23 and Orange Rd.
2. This illustration of US Route 23 shows the 23-mile stretch where multiple concepts for improving traffic and safety are being considered in a study by the Ohio Department of Transportation

The U.S. Route 23 and Orange Road intersection road improvement project is in line to receive \$5 million in funding after being included in the Transportation Review Advisory Council's (TRAC) draft funding list, the Ohio Department of Transportation announced today.

The funding, for fiscal year 2027, will officially be awarded after a final vote is taken April 23 by TRAC, the ODOT board that determines funding for major construction projects.

The request was for funds "for the advanced right of way acquisition at the DEL-23/Orange Rd. intersection for future improvements," said an internal ODOT memo. "The future improvements at this intersection were identified in the U.S. 23 Connect Study that was completed at the end of 2024. The project request is consistent with the ODOT District 6 priorities."

ODOT's District 6 offices are in Delaware at 400 E. William St.

In total, the TRAC-approved draft funding list includes \$123.1 million for 11 projects in eight counties. The list includes \$103.6 million for six Tier I projects. These are statewide construction projects. In addition to projects in Butler, Cuyahoga, Montgomery and Stark counties, there will be "\$8.7 million in fiscal year 2028 for roadway widening/enhancements on Alum Creek Drive in Franklin County."

In the case of U.S. 23/Orange Road, it is considered a Tier II project. Tier II is defined as “The group of projects recommended for additional environmental, design or right-of-way development activities necessary before the projects would be available for construction.” This is the only Delaware County project on the list.

A total \$19.5 million was awarded for development funding on five projects, including state Route 315 and Lane Avenue (Franklin County, \$1.5 million); and the Interstate 71/I-270 interchange on the north side of Columbus (Franklin, \$3 million). ODOT said 27 projects were applied for during the annual funding cycle.

“The public can comment on the draft list by emailing [trac@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:trac@dot.ohio.gov) until April 16,” said a news release sent to The Gazette. “TRAC will vote on the final list at their April 23 meeting.”

The TRAC project information document for Orange/23 identifies 37 land parcels at the site.

The U.S. 23/Orange Road project also has the approval of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. MORPC is the metropolitan planning organization for central Ohio.

“After reviewing the application, we find that the project aligns with MORPC’s plans and programs,” said a letter from the commission to ODOT.

### **Under construction**

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