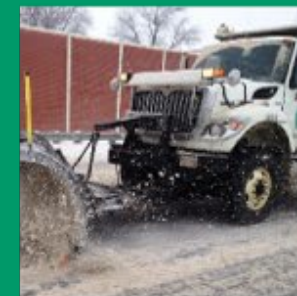
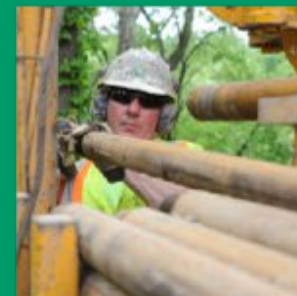
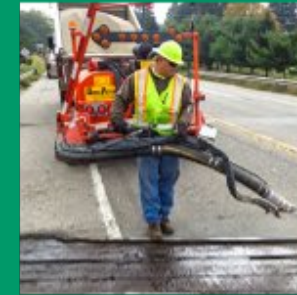


I-71 SmartLane: Between I-670 and I-270 North

Virtual Public Meeting • MAY 26, 2023



FRA-71-19.10, PID 109164

WELCOME - WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

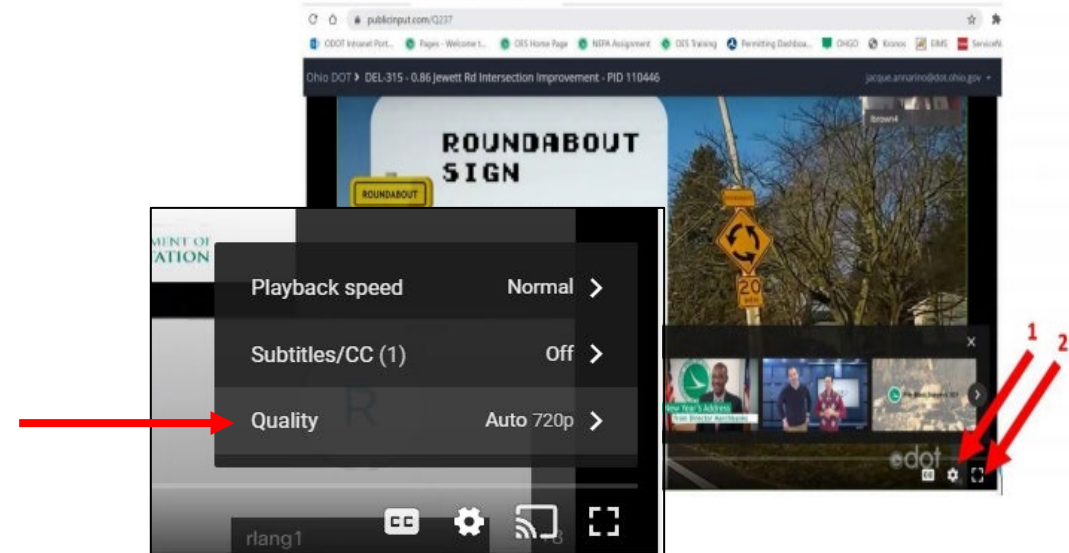
PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THE INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS:

Audio

- Participants connecting to the meeting through the project website should automatically be connected to audio through the computer speakers/headset or smartphone/tablet/device
 - Participants may choose to listen to the meeting by phone if the connection is bad.
 - If you see presenters talking but do not hear audio, try changing your audio connection
 - If that doesn't work, use the chat box to send a message to the team to let them know you are not getting sound
- Participants will remain muted until the question and comment session following the presentation

Video

- If the video is not clear, you can adjust video settings by clicking on the settings icon (See **1** below) at the bottom of the screen and selecting the appropriate pixel setting (higher number = better quality). Clicking on the screen icon (See **2** below) to enlarge the window to full screen may help as well.



MEETING GUIDELINES

- This meeting will be recorded.
- All comments are a public record.
- Each commenter allocated two (2) minutes.
- Please be respectful.
- We reserve the right to respond to questions in writing following the meeting.
- If no additional speakers, permitted to speak for an additional two (2) minutes.
- Commenter may follow-up in writing. (This is not a requirement and will not provide the verbal comments additional weight.)

MEETING PARTICIPATION

SPEAK TO THE PROJECT TEAM

Phone - call 855-925-2801 and enter meeting code: **5014**

- Press the * key and then press 3 to enter the speaker queue
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This feature is only available during the meeting.

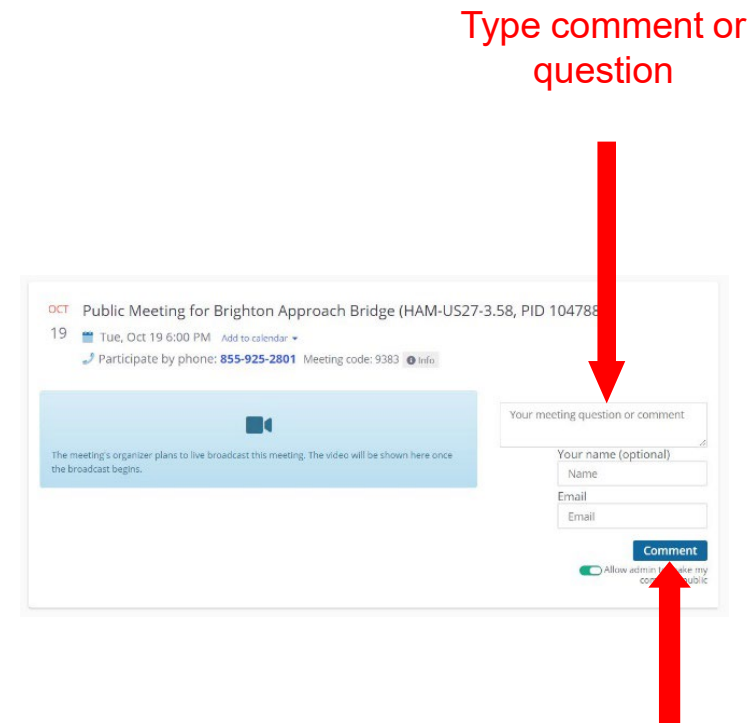
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Click “Comment” to submit into the chatbox

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Online: <http://publicinput.com/x2577>

Email: danilo.puozzo@dot.ohio.gov

Call: 740-833-8269

Mail to: Danilo Puozzo, P.E., Project Manager
ODOT - District 6
400 E. William Street
Delaware, OH 43015

All comments carry equal weight, no matter how they are submitted.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

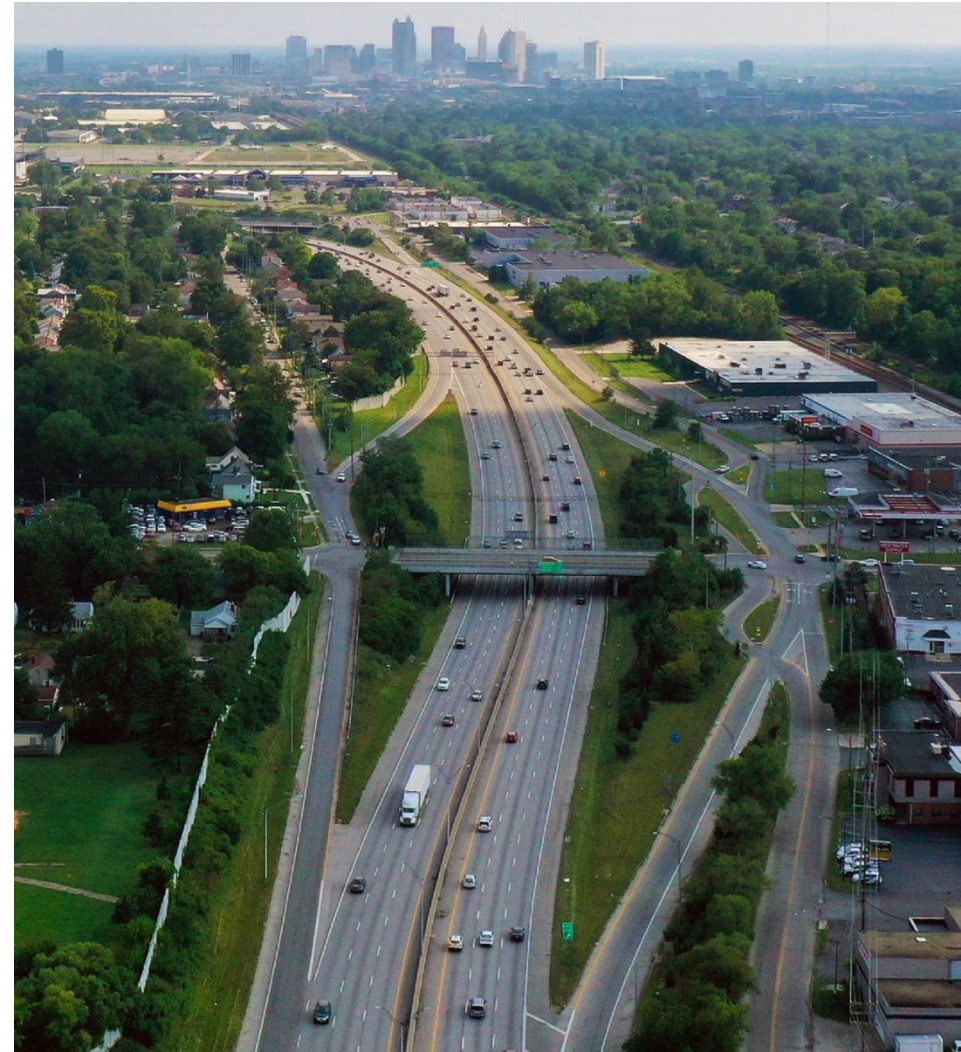
Danilo Puozzo, P.E.
Project Manager,
ODOT District 6

AGENDA

- Meeting purpose & discussion guidelines
- Project purpose, need & overview
- Project alternatives
- Bridge improvements
- Maintenance of traffic
- Schedule & next steps
- Questions & comments

MEETING PURPOSE

- Inform public about the proposed project
- Seek feedback on the build and no-build options
- Provide information on the maintenance of traffic during construction



PROJECT INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

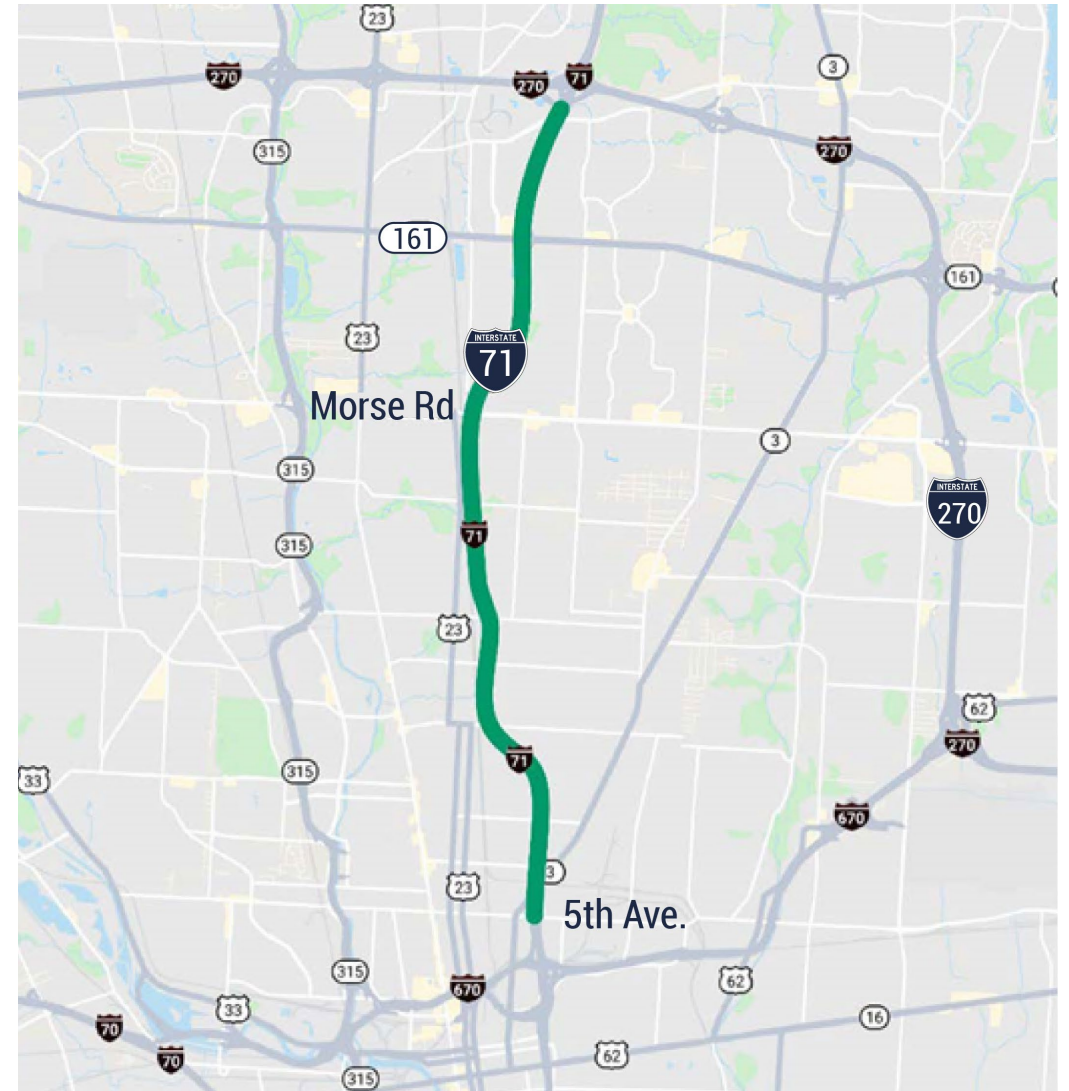
PROJECT NEED

- 1,200 crashes were recorded from 2017-2019 in the project area
- The volume of crashes during the peak hours indicates congestion is a significant contributing factor



PROJECT SUMMARY

- The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to install a SmartLane in each direction on I-71 between I-670 (just north of 5th Avenue) and I-270 (just north of SR 161).
- These improvements will increase safety and ease congestion
- The project will also resurface travel lanes along the 8.5-mile corridor and improve numerous bridges along I-71

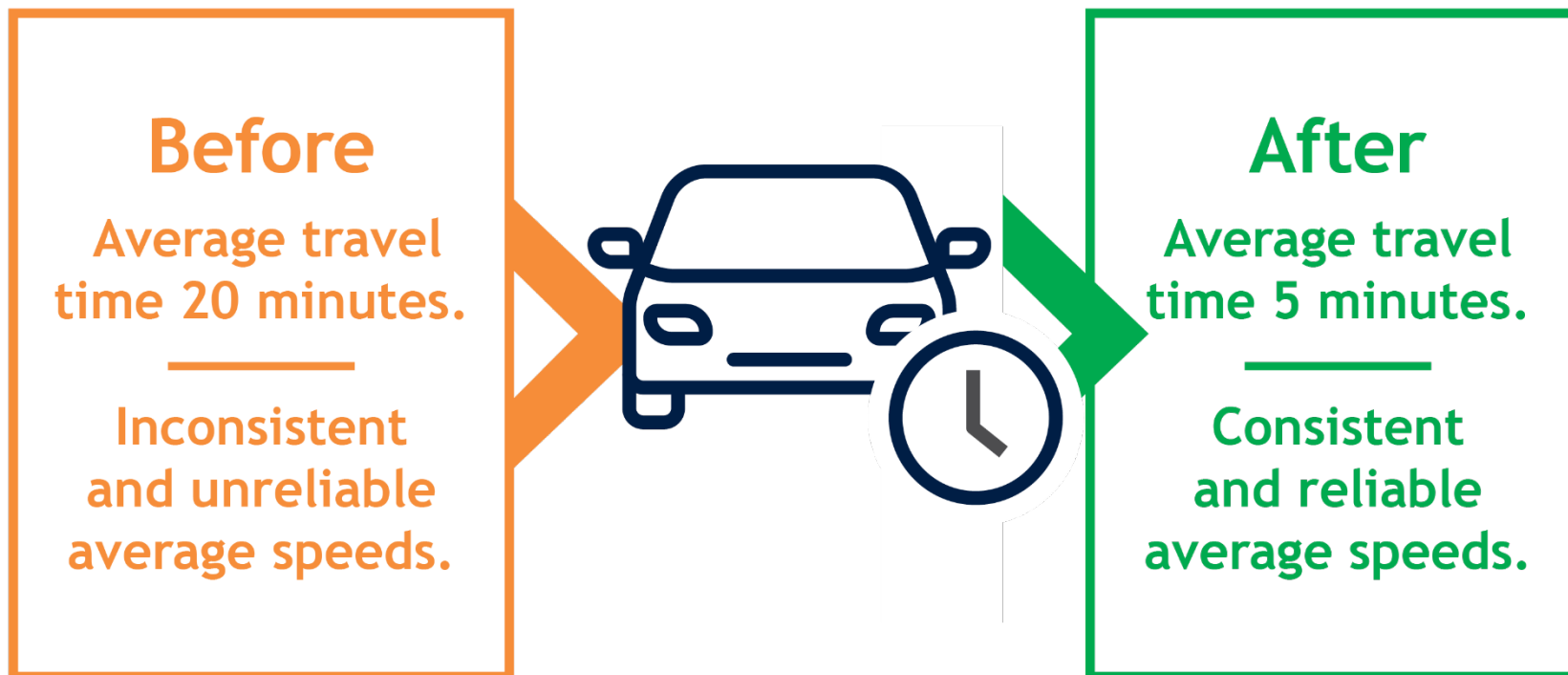


After these times of high congestion, the shoulder will return back to its normal use



I-670 SMARTLANE OUTCOMES

TRAVEL TIME RELIABILITY



82% Reduction in Crashes
(2017-2019 vs 2020-2022)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- I-71 was built in late 1950s
- Interstate design and footprint hasn't changed much; only minor improvements
- 9 closely-spaced interchanges



PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED

Alleviate Congestion

- Motorists experience morning and afternoon traffic congestion to/from Downtown Columbus

Improve Safety

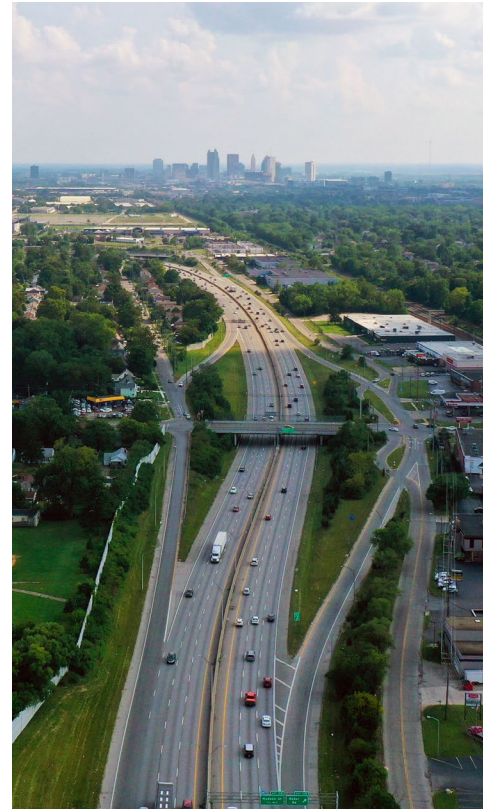
- 1,200 crashes were recorded from 2017-2019; nearly half were rear-end collisions - almost double statewide average for a freeway

Improve Traffic Incident Management Capabilities

- First responders unable to efficiently monitor the freeway and manage lane use in response to crashes

FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Conducted in 2021
- Focused on ways to improve congestion and safety on I-71
- Evaluated 5 alternative solutions



FRA-71-18.52 FEASIBILITY STUDY

PID 110273 | Fed. Project No. E190(550)
5th Ave. to I-270 Congestion Relief

Submitted to ODOT District 6
December 2021

Prepared by  **Gannett Fleming** |  **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

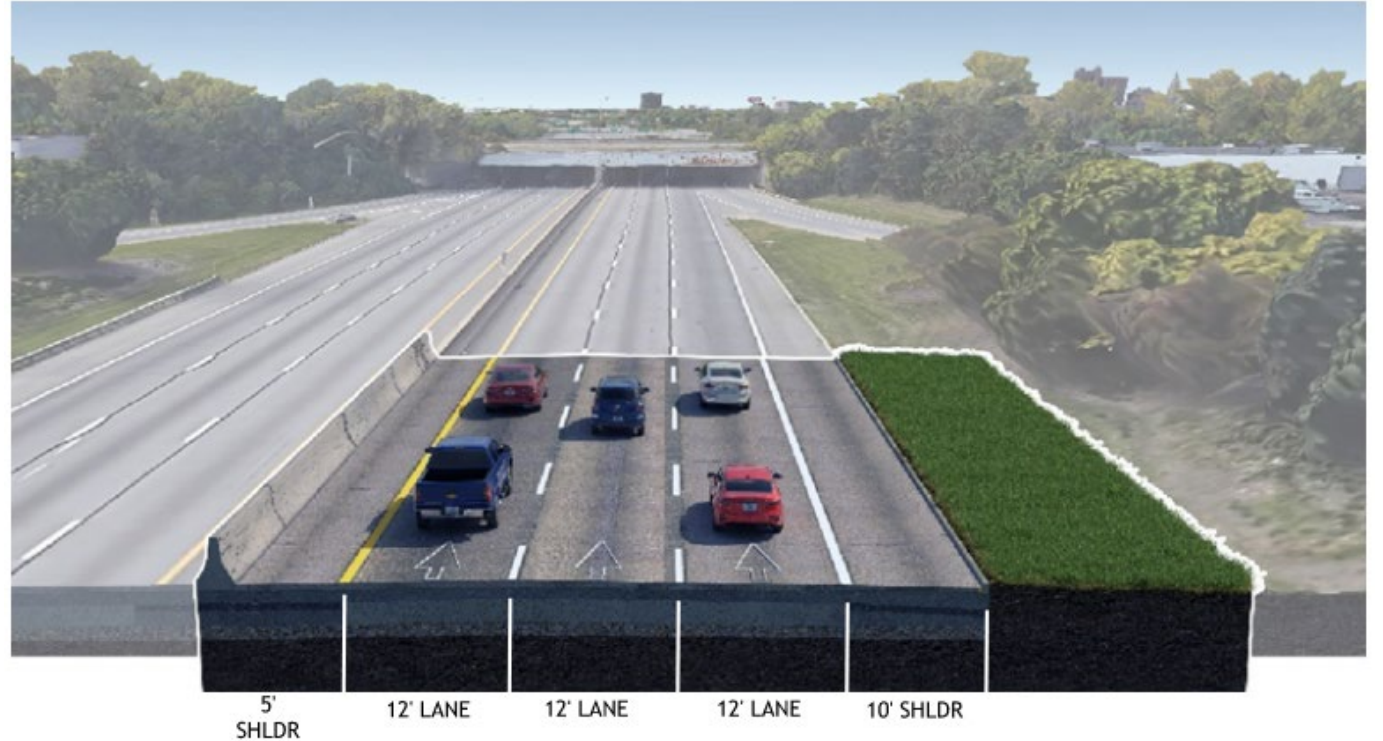
The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for these projects are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a memorandum of understanding dated December 11, 2015, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Alternative 1 (No-build)

- Preserves existing interstate
- No improvements



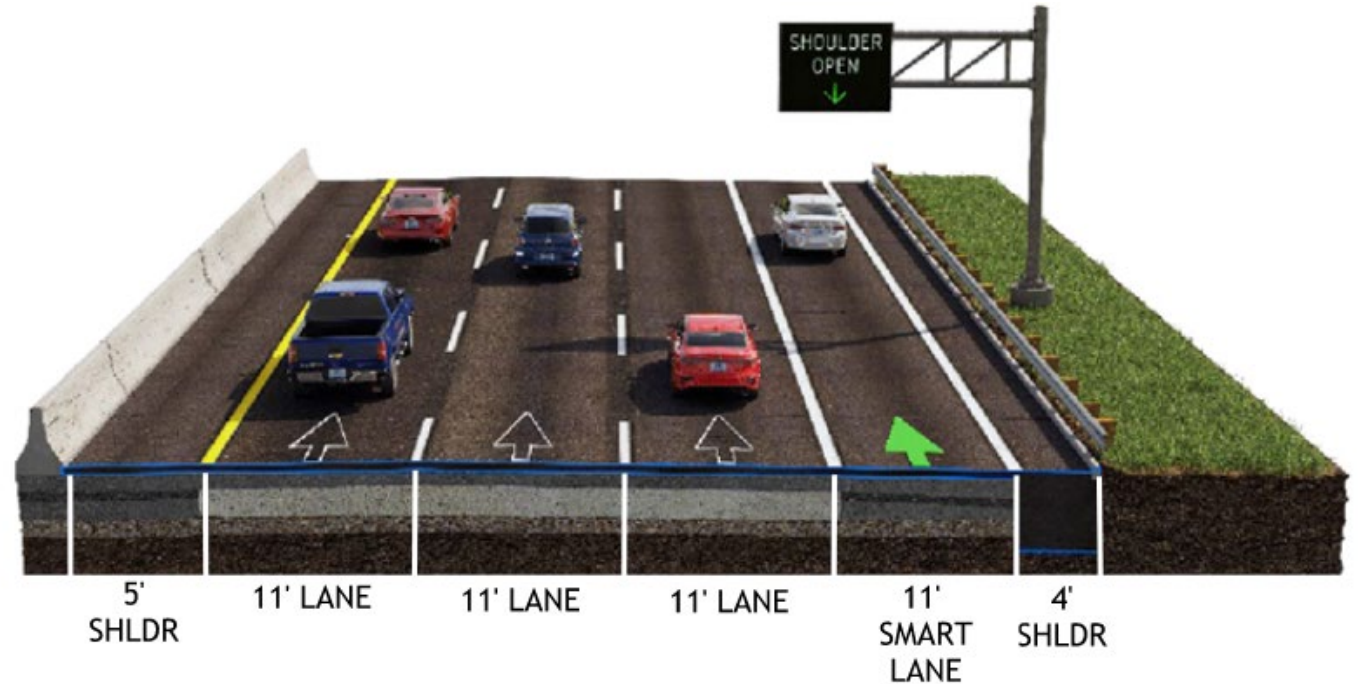
Primary Reason NOT to Advance this Alternative:

- Does not relieve congestion, reduce crashes, or improve traffic incident management

ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Alternative 2

- Use outside shoulder as SmartLane
- Open SmartLane in peak commuting hours only



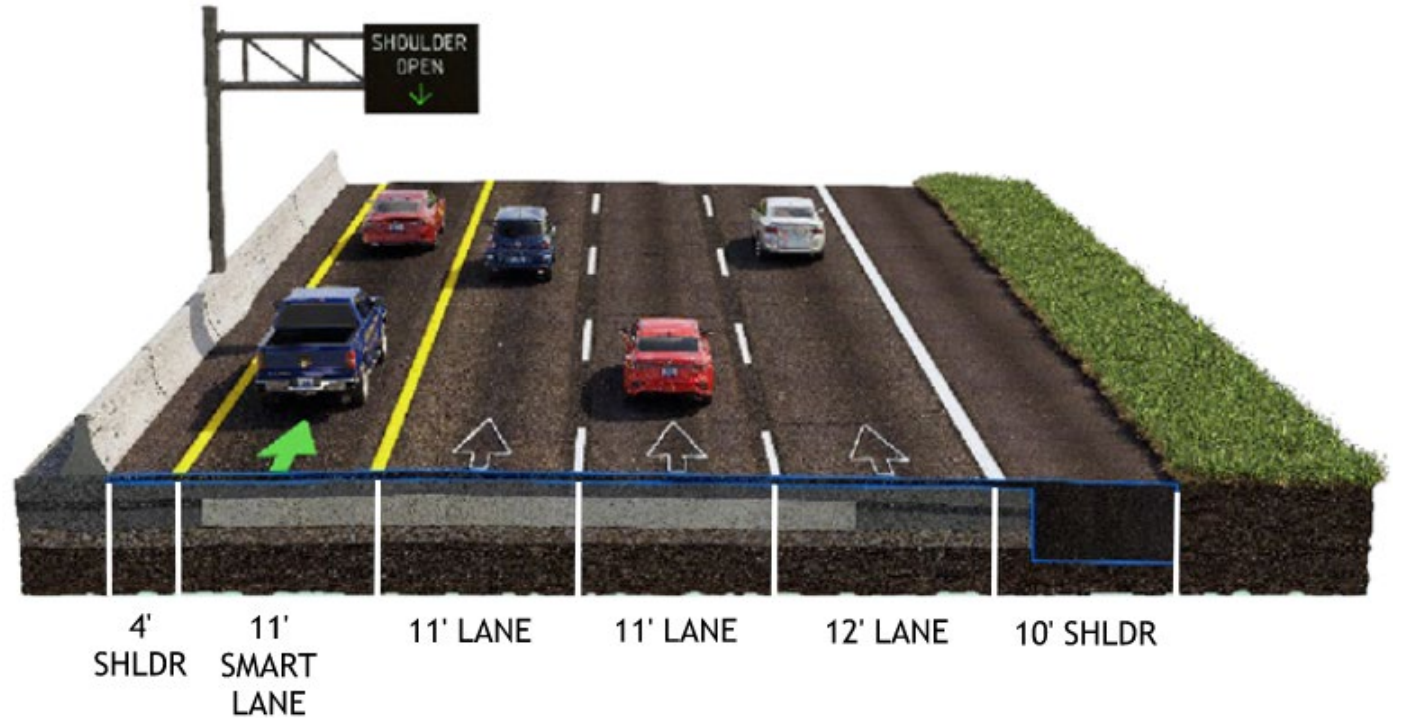
Primary Reason NOT to Advance this Alternative:

- Complex striping/signing at closely spaced interchanges will cause driver confusion

ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Alternative 3

- Use inside shoulder as SmartLane
- Open SmartLane in peak commuting hours only



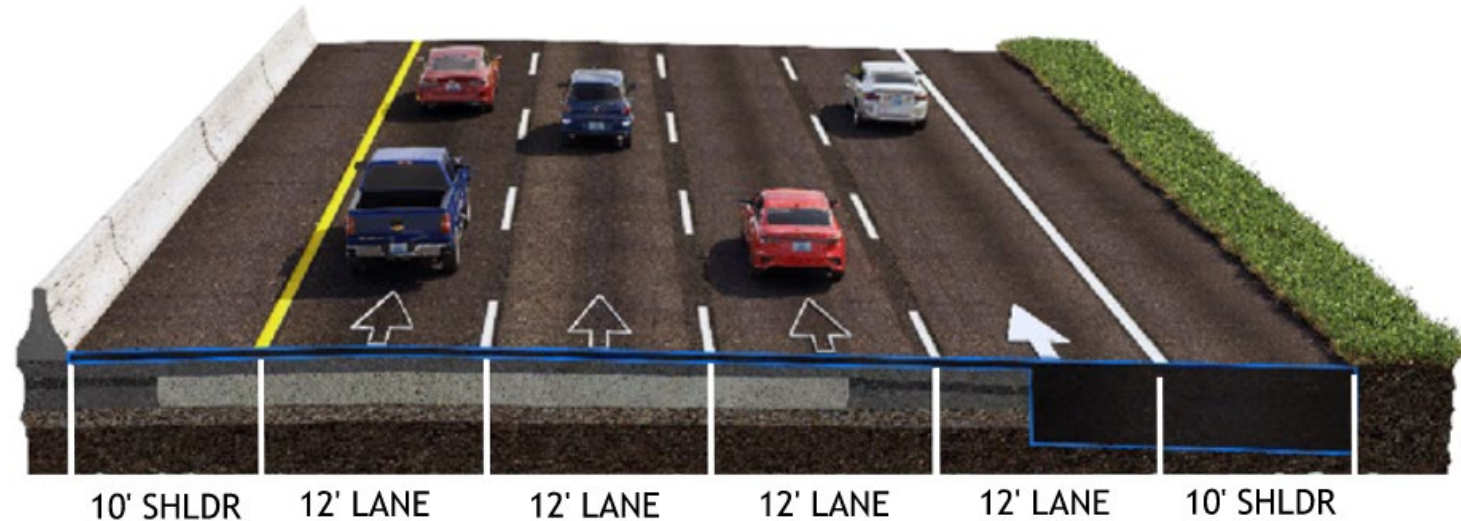
Primary Reason NOT to Advance this Alternative:

- N/A - This alternative satisfies the Purpose and Need with minimal impacts

ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Alternative 4

- Add 4th permanent lane to I-71
- Standard width lanes and shoulders



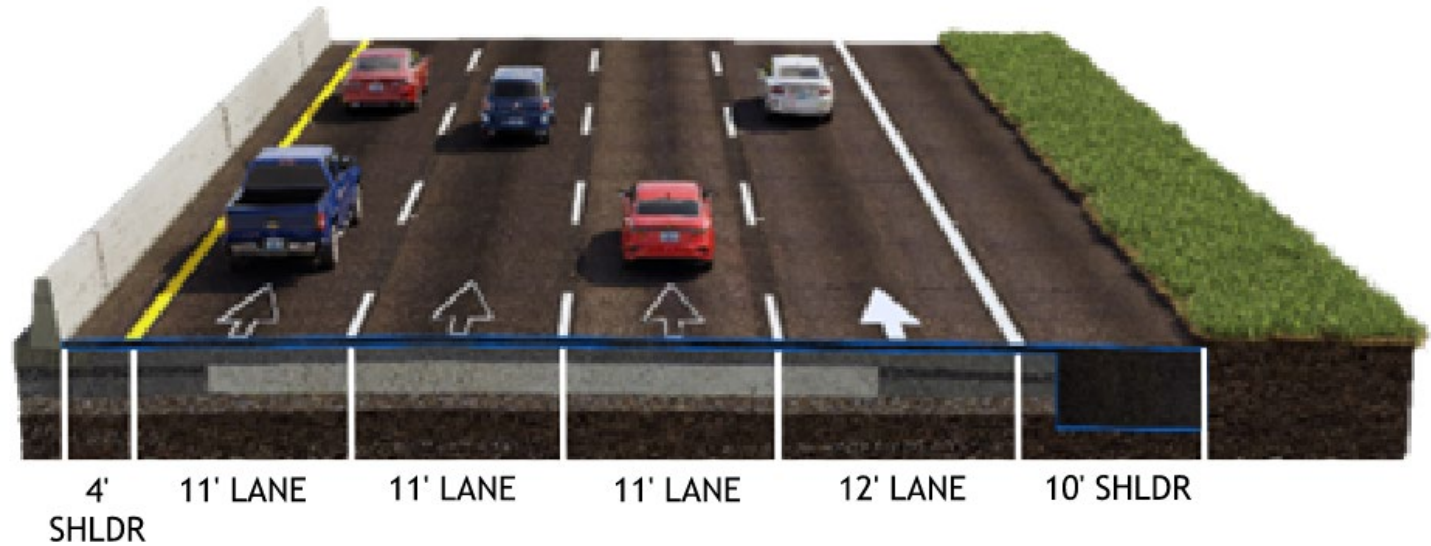
Primary Reason NOT to Advance this Alternative:

- Requires an extensive amount of pavement and bridge widening, including the replacement of 9 overpass bridges

ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Alternative 5

- Add 4th permanent lane to I-71
- Reduced-width lanes and shoulders



Primary Reason NOT to Advance this Alternative:

- Inside shoulder would not be available for breakdowns, traffic incident management, or highway maintenance

ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION

Special Use Lanes

- Dedicated lane for high-occupancy-vehicles (HOV), trucks, buses etc.



Primary Reason NOT to Advance this Alternative:

- SmartLane provides benefit to all users and does not eliminate future considerations for an HOV lane

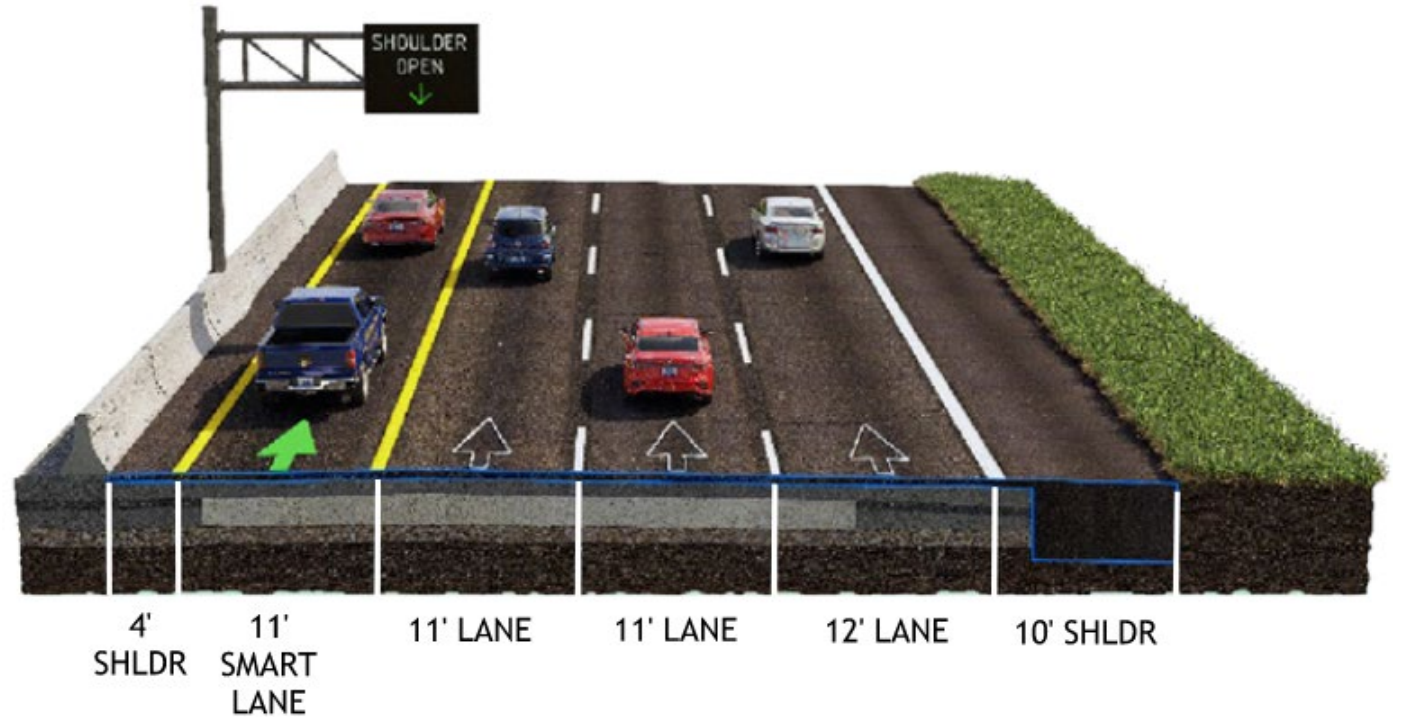
ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION OUTCOME: TWO OPTIONS

- **No-Build Alternative (Alternative 1)**
 - Maintain the present roadway conditions
- **Use Inside Shoulder as SmartLane (Alternative 3)**
 - Alleviates congestion during peak commuting hours
 - Improves safety by reducing congestion
 - Improves incident management capabilities
 - Wider inside shoulder during non-peak commuting hours
 - Overhead message signs, with full camera coverage, provides ability to monitor corridor and manage incident response

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Alternative 3

- Use inside shoulder as SmartLane
- Open SmartLane in peak commuting hours only



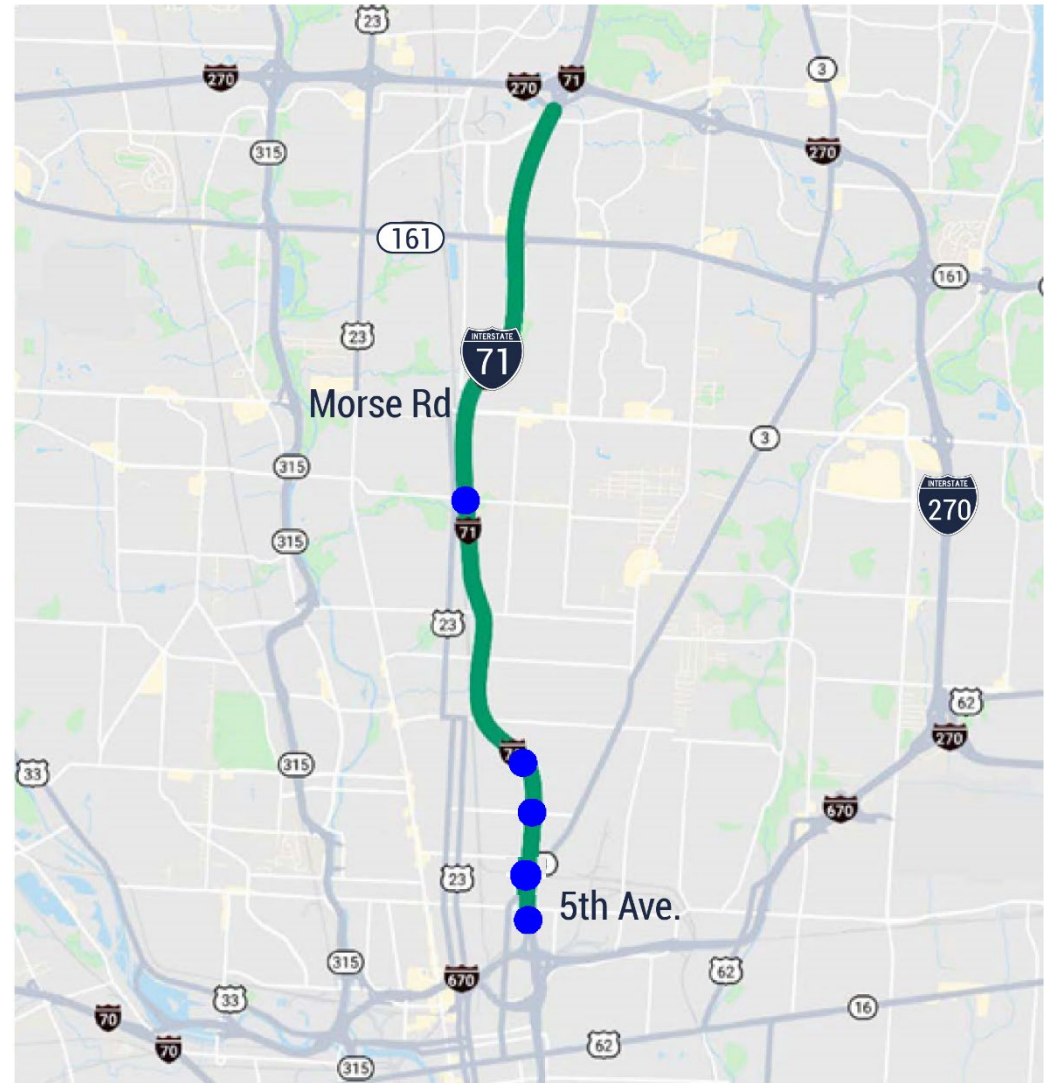
Advantage:

- Addresses Purpose and Need while minimizing impacts

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

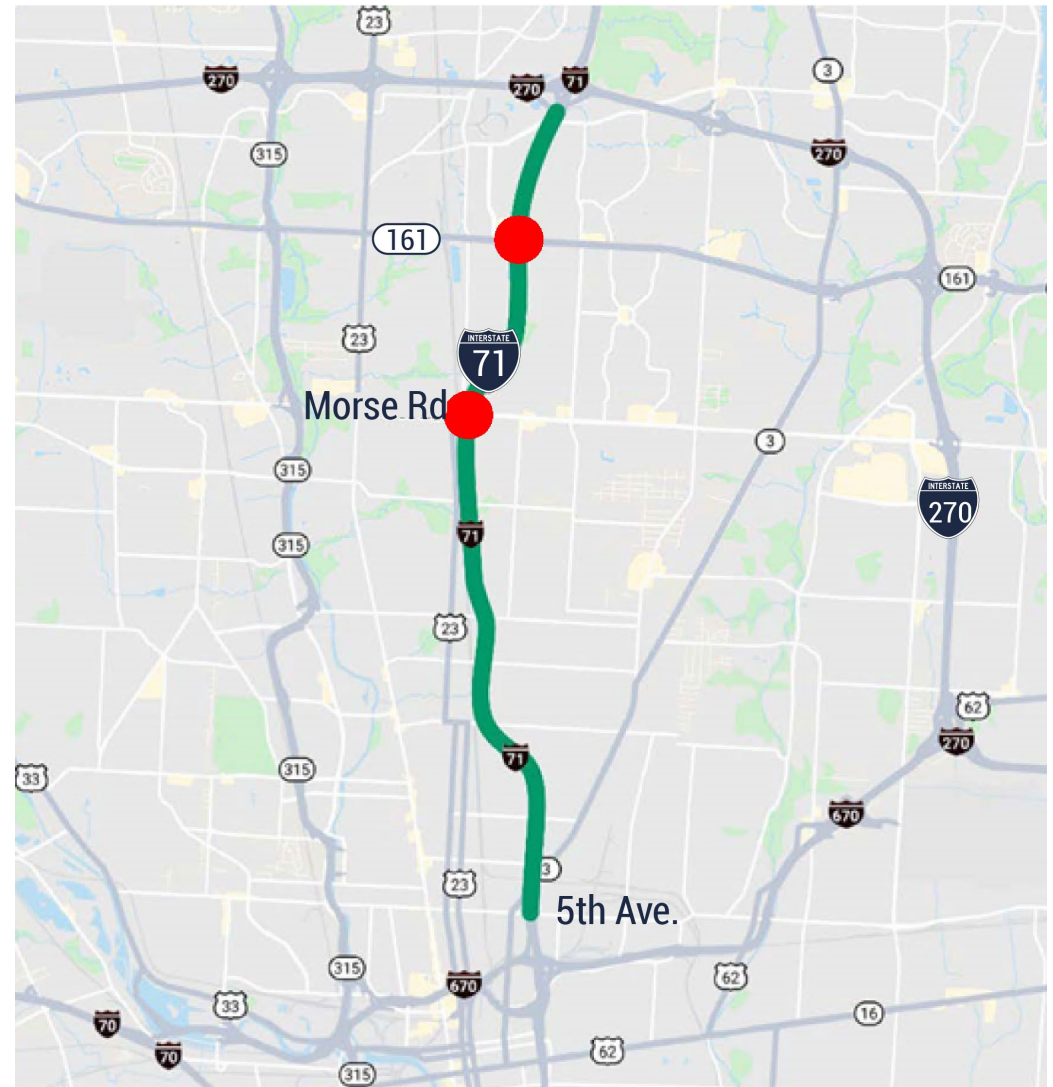
BRIDGE REHABILITATION

- Four freeway bridges to receive new pavement surface and repairs
 - 2nd Avenue
 - 17th Avenue
 - Hiawatha Park Drive
 - E. Cooke Road
- Cleveland Ave bridge over I-71 to receive new deck



BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

- Two freeway bridges to be completely replaced
 - Morse Road
 - SR 161/E. Dublin Granville Road



MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

- Three (3.5) construction seasons
 - Begin construction Spring 2025
 - End construction Fall 2028
- Maintain three (3) freeway lanes in each direction for entire project
 - Short duration lane closures at nighttime or weekends only



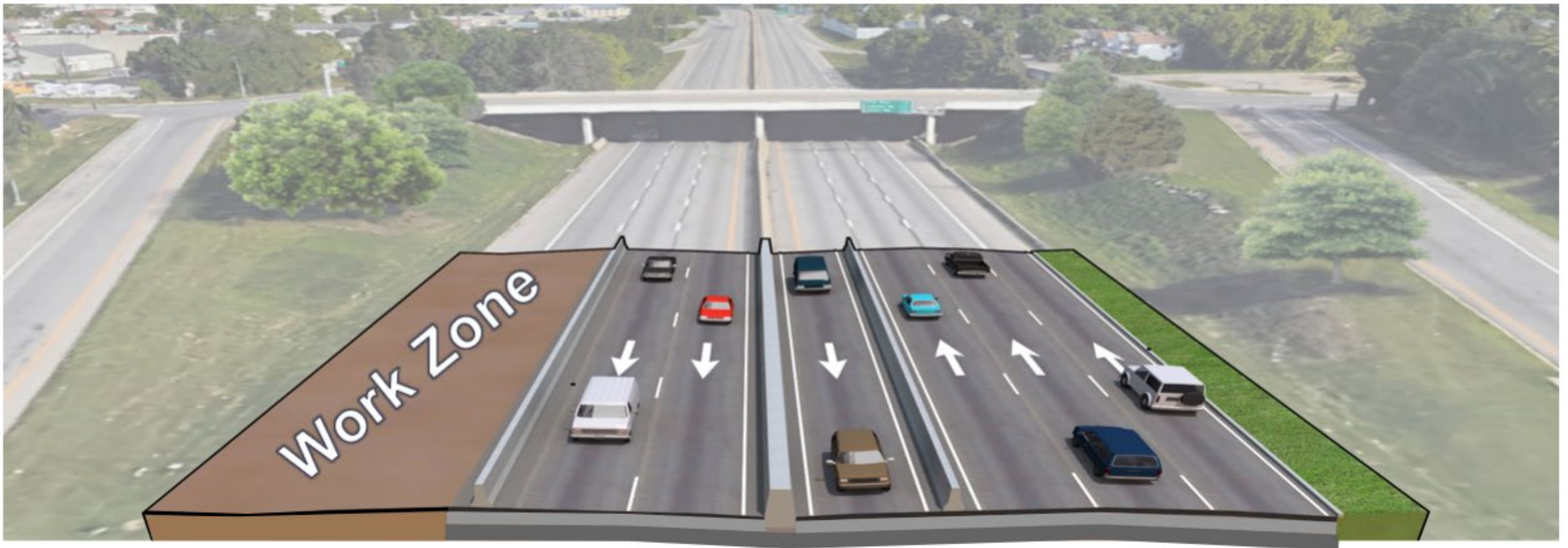
MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

- Northbound I-71 Freeway Improvements
 - One (1) northbound lane will be maintained on the southbound side



MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

- Southbound I-71 Freeway Improvements
 - One (1) southbound lane will be maintained on the northbound side



MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

- Ramp Improvements
 - Ramp work will not be permitted during designated events
 - When ramp work is permitted, a maximum number of days will be granted to complete the work



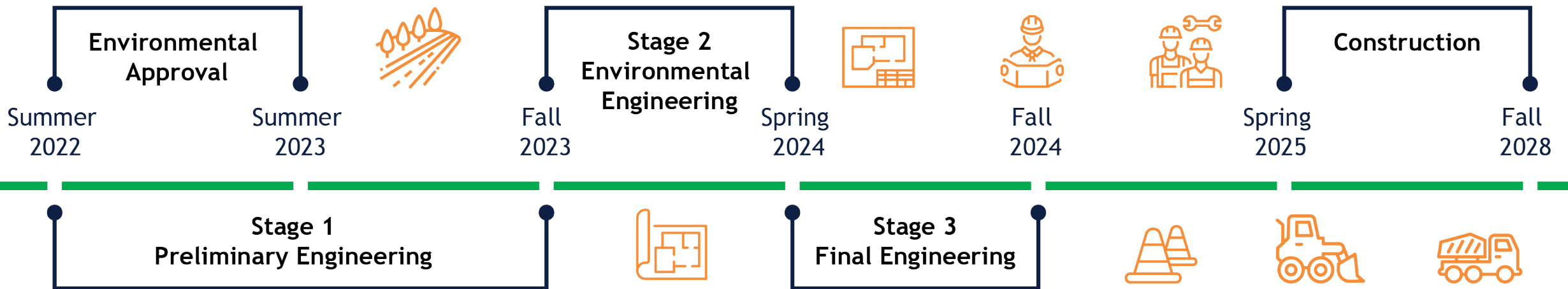
MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

- Cleveland Ave may be closed at I-71 for approx. 4 months
 - Bridge deck to be replaced
 - Evaluating options to maintain traffic during construction
 - Coordinating with the City of Columbus and COTA
 - Seeking public comment on pedestrian and bicyclist usage concerns



SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE



QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

QUESTION & COMMENT SESSION

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Mail to: Danilo Puozzo, P.E., Project Manager
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400 E. William Street
Delaware, OH 43015

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NEXT STEPS

- Review all comments
- See publicinput.com/x2577 for the public meeting presentation, exhibits, and comment form
- Public comment closes Monday, June 30, 2023
- Document public comments & how they were addressed

THANK YOU!

Danilo Puozzo, P.E., Project Manager

ODOT District 6

740-833-8269

danilo.puozzo@dot.ohio.gov

<https://publicinput.com/x2577>