



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

## Project Description

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) proposes to implement 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 I-71 SmartLane project will also resurface travel lanes and improve numerous bridges along the corridor.

## Project Purpose & Need

A feasibility study on the I-71 corridor was previously completed in 2021 and focused on ways to:



### ALLEVIATE CONGESTION

**HOW:** Reduce congestion by utilizing the shoulder as a lane during peak hours to allow traffic to move more freely.



### IMPROVE SAFETY

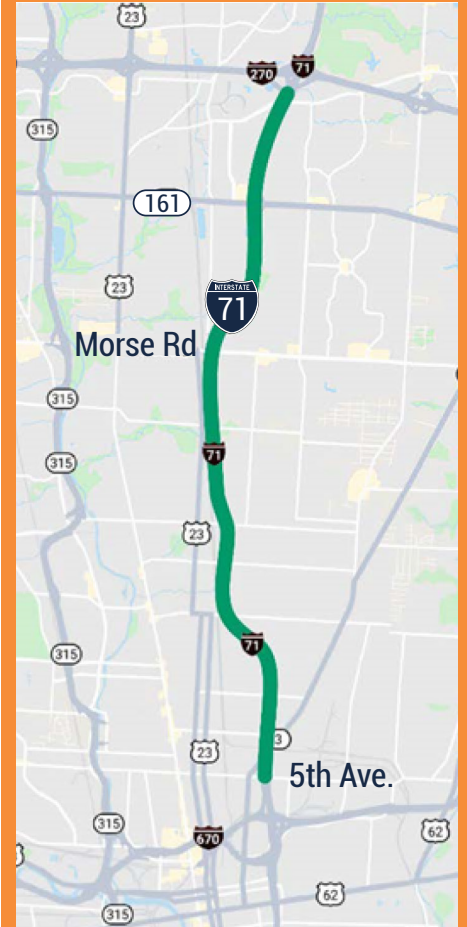
**HOW:** The volume of crashes during the AM and PM peak hours indicate congestion is a significant contributing factor. Reducing congestion will reduce likelihood for crashes. In non-peak hours, the inside shoulder will be wider for emergency use.



### IMPROVE TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

**HOW:** New CCTV cameras and dynamic message signs will be used to monitor the freeway and inform motorists when lanes are open/closed.

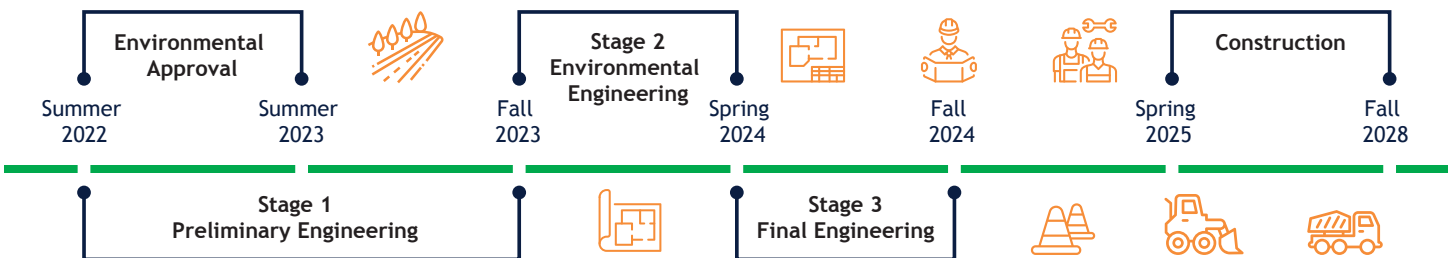
## Project Location



## What is a SmartLane?

A SmartLane is a traffic management solution that uses the existing shoulder as an additional lane of travel during periods of heavy congestion. When it's not needed, the SmartLane closes for use by law enforcement, emergency responders and maintenance crews.

## Project Schedule



## Project Alternatives

Five alternatives were evaluated for the I-71 SmartLane project during the previous Feasibility Study. Alternatives 1 and 3 were advanced for further review.

### ADVANCED

#### Alternative 1 (No-build)

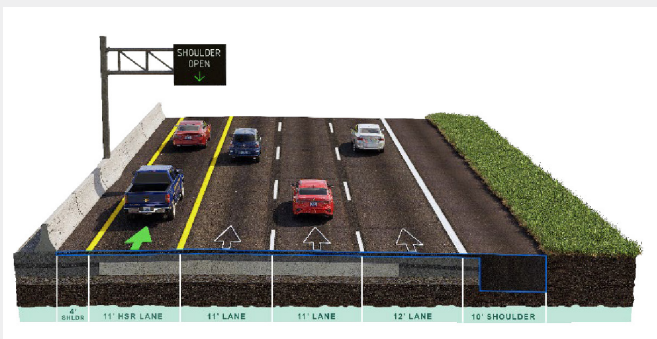
The no-build alternative installs the existing conditions of I-71, but does not relieve congestion, reduce crashes, or improve traffic incident management.



### ADVANCED

#### Alternative 3

This alternative installs a SmartLane on the inside shoulder of I-71 (both in the north and south bound directions). The SmartLane is only used during peak commute hours, but does require a limited amount of pavement widening.



#### Additional Alternative 3 benefits include:

- Congestion relief during peak commuting hours
- Wider inside shoulder for breakdowns and emergency use during non-peak commuting hours
- Overhead message signs with full CCTV coverage (corridor monitoring and incident response management)
- No additional right-of-way is needed
- Addresses project Purpose and Need while minimizing impacts

## Bridge Improvements



Bridge rehabilitation is proposed at these locations along I-71:

- 2nd Avenue
- 17th Avenue
- Hiawatha Park Drive
- E. Cooke Road

Bridge replacement is proposed at these locations along I-71:

- Morse Road
- SR 161/E. Dublin Granville Road

## Impacts to Traffic

During construction (anticipated to occur between Spring 2025 and Fall 2028) ramps along I-71 will be temporarily closed in blocks. Each block includes an entrance and exit ramp. An alternative route will be assigned to each block.



### Estimated Construction Cost

# \$90,000,000



## Learn More

Learn more about the project and I-71 maintenance of traffic during construction by visiting [publicinput.com/x2577](https://publicinput.com/x2577).

## Questions & Stay in the Loop

ODOT District 6 Public Information Office

Call [740-833-8268](tel:740-833-8268) or

email [d06.pio@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:d06.pio@dot.ohio.gov)

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View traffic cameras and get the latest information, including planned lane closures related to construction and unplanned impacts like accidents.

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