



State Route 159 (Bridge Street) Corridor Study

PID 113013

Project Description

The Bridge Street corridor is a major commercial district for the city of Chillicothe and the surrounding areas. Traffic exceeds 43,500 vehicles per day, on average (2017 data). Increased traffic and congestion on Bridge Street (between Stewart Road and Pawnee Road) and on the US-35 eastbound exit ramp are resulting in travel delays and above-average crash rates. ODOT has studied the situation and identified the following key contributing factors:

- Bridge Street southbound curb lane is overloaded while the other two lanes are underutilized.
- Bridge Street northbound lanes experience congestion during hours of peak traffic flow.
- The intersection at Bridge Street & Stewart Road is often congested.
- The intersection at Bridge Street & North Plaza Boulevard is often congested.
- US-35 eastbound exit ramp occasionally backs up onto the highway.
- ODOT and the City of Chillicothe also wish to enhance pedestrian facilities along Bridge Street.

To address these issues effectively, ODOT is conducting a Feasibility Study to develop optional improvements to the Bridge Street corridor, such as adding a northbound lane, reconfiguring intersections, adding pedestrian shared use paths and/or sidewalks, and improving signal coordination.

Tentative Project Schedule



Traffic Impacts

ODOT recognizes the importance of keeping Bridge Street open to traffic during construction. To keep Bridge Street traffic open, approximately 2 years may be needed for construction. Traffic on local streets may need to be detoured at times.

Funding

This project is currently expected to cost between \$20-24million, including design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs. This estimate will be refined as project development continues.

Project Comments

Comments about this project are welcomed and encouraged.

Please submit comments via:

Mail (comment form or letter):

ODOT District 9
Attention: Tom Barnitz
650 Eastern Avenue
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Email: Tom.Barnitz@dot.ohio.gov

Call: (740) 774-8877

**Online Open House and
Comment Submittal:**

www.PublicInput.com/L1066

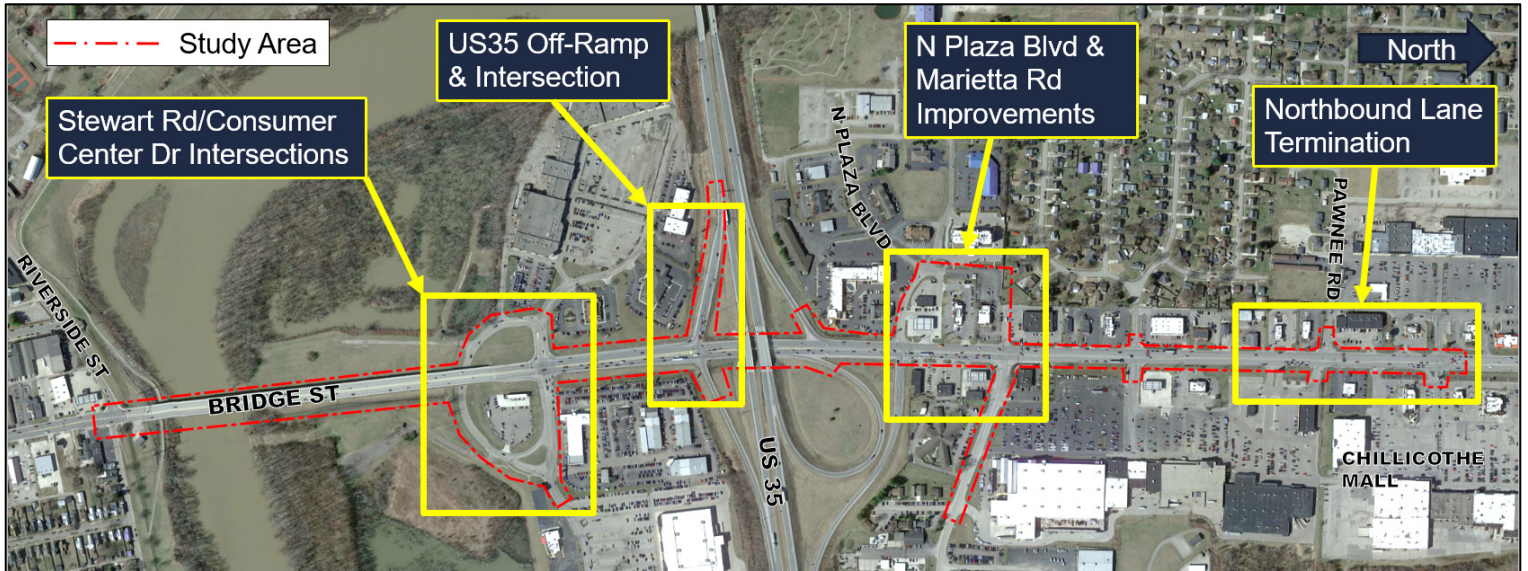


Comments should be submitted by **November 21, 2021**, to be considered during this phase of development.

Thank you for participating.

State Route 159 (Bridge Street) Corridor Study: Project Handout

Proposed Improvements and Focus Areas



ODOT is proposing the following improvements to address safety and congestion on Bridge Street.

- Add a third northbound lane on Bridge St., from Stewart Rd. to Pawnee Rd.
- Adjust the southbound lanes on Bridge St. to reduce congestion in the right lane.
 - Add a dedicated right turn lane for the westbound US 35 entrance ramp
- Add pedestrian facilities to both sides of Bridge St.
 - Shared use path (10 feet wide) on east side, from Riverside St. to US 35 westbound exit ramp
 - Sidewalks (5½-7½ feet wide) through the remainder of the Bridge St. study area
- Realign the Pawnee Rd. intersection at Bridge St. to reduce crashes.

For the following Focus Areas, ODOT and the City of Chillicothe are considering various options to improve safety and traffic flow. *The options will be available on the Online Open House by October 21, 2021 and presented during the In-Person Open House on October 21, 2021.*

- Stewart Rd./Consumer Center Dr. Intersections
 - Stewart Rd./Bridge St. intersection improvements
 - Stewart Road/Consumer Center Drive intersections to the east and west of Bridge St.
- US 35 Off-Ramp & Intersection with Bridge St.
 - Options to maintain or remove the continuous right turn lane onto Bridge St.
- N. Plaza Blvd. and Marietta Rd. Intersections
 - New access road behind Applebee's/Raising Cane's to connect N. Plaza Blvd. to Marietta Rd.
 - Marietta Rd./Bridge St. intersection improvements
- Northbound Lane Termination
 - Consider extending additional lane further north, to Chillicothe Mall entrance

Right-of-Way and Environmental Impacts

The project will modify access for some properties and require permanent and temporary right-of-way from some properties. A representative from the ODOT Real Estate Department will begin contacting affected property owners in 2022. The project is located in an urbanized area and is not expected to impact sensitive environmental resources.

see more at www.PublicInput.com/L1066