A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In a few more days I will complete my fourth 4-year term as director. I will genuinely miss the people of ODOT. It has been an honor and a pleasure to be associated with you and it has enriched my life.

There are so many great people here; talented, capable, productive people, truly a lot of “nice people who care.” People who take pride in themselves and what they do. Thank you for your effort, hard work and dedication.

Together we’ve accomplished a great deal these last eight years. Most importantly, we’ve continued to develop a healthy, positive culture. In addition, since 2011 we’ve invested a record $16 billion dollars in construction projects. We created the Division of Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion to promote diversity and provide equitable opportunities internally and externally. We helped make the roads safer for our highway workers by adding roadside workers to the move over law. We further improved worker safety and visibility with the boot, uniform and jacket programs. ODOT launched two new successful hiring initiatives, the veteran’s apprentice program and the second chance initiative. With the creation of DriveOhio we are pioneering smart mobility and safety that will dramatically change the transportation landscape.

We’ve become a more reliable, professional and productive organization. And that’s just the beginning, if given the opportunity, there is no limit to what the people of ODOT can accomplish. ODOT will continue to be the standard of excellence in government because the men and women of this agency believe in doing the right thing.

Remember, the pursuit of excellence is a lot more fun than settling for mediocrity. The future of the Ohio Department of Transportation is bright and promising. It is a future of professionalism and pride and a future of continuing to make people’s lives better.

Respectfully,

Hancock Hardin Wyandot

Operations: District 1 consolidated its operations into a single campus setting in 2014. The $4.2 million project included construction of five new buildings and added around 50,000 square feet of additional operating space to the facility.

Construction: The reconstruction of the existing lanes of I-75 through the city of Lima and Allen County was completed in 2016. The $136 million project eliminated a failing section of pavement and created expansion opportunity for a future third lane.

New Hires: The district’s CDL apprenticeship program, designed to reach an audience that otherwise may not consider highway work as a career, has resulted in a more diverse workforce. As of 2018, 56 individuals have been hired into the program, 19 as full-time, permanent employees.

Construction: Most of I-75 from southern Findlay to I-280 in Toledo (more than 50 miles) has been or is currently being widened and reconstructed to improve travels in Northwest Ohio. Districts 1 & 2 have worked closely together throughout these projects.

Maintenance: There has been incredible advancement and investment in District 2’s snow and ice operations program; equipment, technology, education and most importantly people. District 2 is proud to be the lead user of liquid de-icer in the state, even ahead of a lot of other midwestern and northeastern states.

District

• Business & Human Resources: Three of District 2’s eight counties have built and moved into new garages. This allowed employees to have better working conditions, more storage and easier access to highways.

• New Facilities: The district has had two new full maintenance facilities built in the last eight years, and a third is currently being constructed. Additional office space in Medina County has also been acquired, allowing employees to travel less while working on projects.

• Safety: The district implemented its first Safety Corridor on State Route 18, from Windfall Road to Medina Line Road. The roadway has seen a steady rise in accident rates over the past 10 years.

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District Driving: In the past few years, thousands of high school students learned about the dangers of distracted driving through a simulator provided by District 4. In 2018, the state’s first District Driving Safety Corridor was formed along I-76/I-80 in Mahoning and Trumbull counties to provide further education and enforcement.

Turnpike Funded Projects: In 2013, District 4 received $220 million dollars in Turnpike funding for the widening of I-271 in the city of Macedonia, the I-80 widening project in Mahoning and Trumbull counties and the I-76/Main/ Broadway project in the city of Akron. District 4 was able to swiftly deliver construction plans for bidding.

Snow & Ice Removal: Over the past eight years District 4 has made many significant improvements in snow and ice operations, using new technology such as the Tow Plow, EPOKE and dual wing plows. Installing heated cab steps have reduced the number of slips and falls during winter.

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• Cherry Valley Interchange: The $31.6 million project not only enhanced capacity and traffic flow on State Route 16 in Licking County, it also improved safety and connections between local and state roads in the area. The amount of dirt moved on this project could fill the Longaberger Basket five times.

• Highway Maintenance: Unique to District 5 is the Boring Machine, which is used to replace culverts. The Boring Machine helps replace culverts without having to close a road, making motorists commute much easier.

• Carroll Interchange: The Carroll interchange project eliminated the intersection at Winchester Road and U.S. Route 33, replacing it with a new interchange with ramps and connector roads. The much needed change will alleviate congestion and allow for a better flow of traffic in the area.

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Social Media: In 2018 ODOT launched its first-ever social media campaign asking Ohioans how they drive safe.

• Force Account Work: District 6 has spent nearly half a billion dollars on preservation and preventative maintenance to take care of existing infrastructure between 2011 and 2018. District 6 forces replaced nearly 600 culverts and paved 58,000 tons of asphalt during the last eight years.

• Safety: After Lee Rizor was killed on the job in 2013, District 6 worked with Director Wray to successfully expand Ohio’s Move Over law to include roadside workers. District 6 took the lead on Move Over awareness events at highway rest areas to increase public education and promote driver safety.

• Communications: In the past year, District 6 has grown its Facebook followers by 54%, and even had a post reach nearly three-quarters of a million people.

Distracted Driving Taskforce: The department joins with ODPS to tackle a growing national problem.

Diverse Hiring: Data reveals ODOT has hired more veterans, women, and minorities since 2011 than at any other time in its history.

• OHGO: The department re-brands its existing website and updates it to include real-time traffic and construction updates.

Transportation Asset Management Plan: With more than $21 billion dollars in assets, IAM uses reliable data to help drive systematic and strategic investment decisions for operating, maintaining, upgrading and expanding physical assets effectively over their life cycle. Ultimately, this leads to a more reliable, sustainable transportation system.

Zero-Based Budgeting: This style of budgeting not only allowed ODOT to reduce costs and increase operational savings, but to better align resources with true needs of the department.

Excellence in Government: Other ODOT Accomplishments

• Healthier Culture: Since 2011, the department has improved it’s Work Life Index, from 70% in 2012 to 75.8% in 2018, making ODOT in the top 11% of businesses as it relates to employee satisfaction.

• Social Media: In 2018 ODOT launched its first-ever social media campaign asking Ohioans how they drive safe.

• Force Account Work: Since increasing the Force Amount limit, ODOT’s highway maintenance have performed more large-scale work than ever before, replacing hundreds of culverts, paving hundreds of lane miles and repairing landslides.

• GPS/AVL: Using a dashboard camera and web interface, the GPS/AVL application allows managers to see real-time weather conditions and status of snow plow trucks.

• DriveOhio is Born: Governor Kasich travels to Central Office to sign an executive order to create Ohio’s one-stop-shop for the development of smart mobility technologies.

• Division of Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion: The department opens first-of-its-kind office to foster fairness, opportunity and equality for all employees as well as the employees of our consultants and contractors.

• Safe, Visible, Professional: ODOT implemented the first-of-its-kind safety jacket, boot and high visibility t-shirt programs to improve safety and visibility for those working on the side of the road.

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**Construction:** Completed a year ahead of schedule and a million dollars below budget, the I-75 Modernization Project through Dayton created three continuous lanes through the city. It eliminated left-hand entrance and exit ramps and created a safer roadway that had not been updated since the 1950s.

**Business & Human Resources:** Over the past eight years, district employees learned to cross departmental boundaries and work together, to work safely, and with a more positive attitude toward the work day. District 4’s work life index has risen to 77.7%, which is above the statewide goal of 75%.

**The reorganization of the Planning, Engineering and Construction sections into the Capital Program's Department has improved the project development process, provided flexibility in the completion of work functions, and created better communication and an improved work process overall.**

**Tagging Savings:** District 8 engineer Jon Milosky’s 2015 suggestion of tagging the exterior of approved concrete trucks increased project inspectors’ ability to prohibit the use of substandard materials on ODOT projects. The change saves labor time and costs and ultimately provides ODOT a better product that results in longer life cycle rate of return.

**New I-71/MLK Urban interchange:** The August 2017 completion of the new Interstate 71 and Martin Luther King Jr. urban interchange greatly improved access into, out of and through Cincinnati’s second largest employment center. The $80 million project went from concept to completion in four years enhancing travel for more than 45,000 residents and 55,000 employees in the surrounding “Uptown” neighborhoods.

**Ask to Know:** In 2017 District 8 launched its combined capital and operating work plan survey of its employees to receive input on where the problems and issues are on the routes they drive every day. This survey effort successfully engaged county and district personnel in identifying areas and issues that needed to be evaluated as part of the work plan process.

**Construction:** Paving-Train crews in District 10 continue to place more asphalt than any other district, averaging 30,000 tons per season. During the past two paving seasons, temporary transportation managers have been assigned to oversee paving train operations.

**ER Event:** The 2018 construction season was unlike any other for District 10, with 80 emergency landslide projects added to the regularly scheduled construction program. It has been an all-hands-on-deck situation, with nearly every department contributing in some way.

**Nelsonville Bypass:** The fifth anniversary of the Nelsonville Bypass was marked on October 1, 2018. The last section between Athens and Columbus to be made a four-lane. It alleviated a major safety issue on old U.S. Route 33 through Nelsonville.

**Southern Ohio Veterans Memorial Highway:** After more than half a century in the making, the new State Route 823 in Scioto County opened. The state’s single, largest earthwork project to date, this project created a 16-mile, four-lane route connecting U.S. 23 at Lucasville to U.S. 52 near Sciotoville in Scioto County.

**New Facilities:** Since 2014, District 9 has opened four new, full-service highway maintenance facilities in Highland, Adams, Brown and Ross counties. In addition, the district constructed a new salt barn to share with Gallia County and made improvements and upgrades to its Jackson and Scioto County garages.

**Safety:** District 9’s Safety Department is dedicated to the prevention of accidents and injuries, and this has been evidenced over the last eight years as the district has seen a decrease in accidents and injuries. The district has consistently had one of the best safety records in the state, with regular inspections and routine training.
• **No Lost Time:** On August 8, 2018, Holmes County celebrated 10 years of no lost time due to injury. Holmes County Garage employees have not missed a single day of work due to injury in 10 years.

• **Interchange Improvement:** District 11 Roadway Services employees recently repaired a delaminated pier cap on a State Route 11 bridge in Columbiana County. District staff found a process that saved time and was a fifth of the cost by completing this work in-house while causing little disruption to the traveling public.

• **New Facilities:** In the last eight years, District 12 constructed the new Euclid Full Service Maintenance Facility in 2013, Warrensville Full Service Maintenance Facility in 2016 and is in the process of constructing a new Cleveland Full Service Maintenance Facility. When completed, the Cleveland facility will be the largest ODOT maintenance garage in the state.

• **Innerbelt Bridges:** With the westbound span opening in 2013, followed by the eastbound span in 2016, The George V. Voinovich Bridge now carries I-90 sum of 4,000 feet across the Cuyahoga River and CSX Railroad.

• **Republican National Convention:** Hosted in Cleveland in July 2016, the event brought together the efforts of districts 12, 4, 3 and Central Office to provide planning assistance, beautification efforts and emergency response services as needed.

• **Roadway Services Innovation:** This project was completed in the fall of this year in Belmont County. The $19.5 million investment in northeast Ohio will increase safety and the flow of traffic through this area.