



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 5 9600 JACKSONTOWN RD., S.E. P.O. BOX 306 JACKSONTOWN, OHIO 43030 (740) 323-4400

September 10, 2007

*RE: Project Update  
State Route 16 Improvement – Muskingum and Coshocton Counties: #77239*

Dear Citizen:

I am sending this letter to update you on the current status of the project study. At this time, this project has been put on hold due to fiscal constraints and new restrictions which prevent the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) from undertaking additional major new projects before starting construction on all of the Tier 1 Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) projects.

The TRAC was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1997. The TRAC's main function is to determine which large projects ODOT will pursue by prioritizing projects as either Tier 1 or Tier 2. Tier 1 projects are those that have designated construction funding. Tier 2 projects are those that do not have construction funding, but are in some phase of project development. No construction funds have been secured for the construction of the Muskingum/Coshocton State Route 16 project and the earliest that construction funds could become available is beyond 2014. Consequently, the Muskingum/Coshocton State Route 16 improvement project falls into the Tier 2 category.

The Ohio Department of Transportation is facing challenging financial circumstances, and in the biennium budget bill which passed this year, the General Assembly placed specific funding restrictions on ODOT. In essence, the General Assembly passed legislation which requires the construction of the Tier 1 program before funding can be applied to existing Tier 2 projects. As a result of this legislation, ODOT is now in the process of reviewing all of the previous funding commitments, and has informed our consultant to halt work on the Muskingum/Coshocton State Route 16 improvement project until such time that the TRAC makes a determination on how to move forward. We are hopeful that we will receive specific direction on this project by the end of this year.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact:

Real Estate/Property: Jason Sturgeon, District 5 Real Estate Administrator  
(740) 323-5186 or [Jason.Sturgeon@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Jason.Sturgeon@dot.state.oh.us)

Environmental: Amy Toohey, District 5 Environmental Coordinator  
(740) 323-5191 or [Amy.Toohey@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Amy.Toohey@dot.state.oh.us)

Mapping and General Project Information: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/dist5/projects>

Respectfully,

Julie Gwinn  
Planning Administrator