



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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ROS-207-0.00

In an effort to enhance infrastructure, accommodate traffic demands and improve safety, the Ohio Department of Transportation – District 9 is furthering the development of the Ross-207 Extension project in northern Ross County to construct a two-lane roadway extending S.R. 207 from its terminus at U.S. 23 to S.R. 159, as well as to improve portions of S.R. 159 and S.R. 180.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Ross-207 Extension project (ROS-207-0.00; PID: 93744) calls for the construction of a new, two-lane roadway - S.R. 207 - between U.S. 23 and S.R. 159. To the west, the new route will connect at the terminus with U.S. 23 at the existing interchange, and to the east, the roadway will connect at S.R. 159 between Delano Road and S.R. 180. In addition to addressing other improvements, roundabouts will be constructed at the new route's junction with S.R. 159 and at the junction of S.R. 180 and S.R. 159.

The purpose of the project is to provide system linkage between these routes, as well as provide transportation infrastructure and access to support existing land uses and economic development initiatives. The project will also improve safety for motorists traveling along the S.R. 159/S.R. 180 corridors and at the U.S. 23/S.R. 159 interchange. Funded with local, state and federal monies, construction is estimated to cost \$8 million, and construction is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 2020.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Ross-207 project stems from a local and state effort to address the county's transportation infrastructure needs in relation to ongoing and anticipated growth and development, specifically in and around the city of Chillicothe, first identified in the 1998 Ross County Thoroughfare Plan. Also included in the plan was the construction of Veterans Parkway; the partial interchanges at U.S. 35 and Pleasant Valley; the widening of S.R. 104; and the first S.R. 207 connector to create a segmented bypass around the county's northern corridor. And while construction and upgrades to these facilities have been completed, the Ross-207 Extension is the final component to complete the connectivity of the county's primary two-lane state highway system to U.S. 23 and U.S. 35.

Working with local officials, ODOT began preliminary development of the Ross-207 Extension project in 2011, and by the spring of 2014, a preferred alternative to extend the route from U.S. 23 to the junction of S.R. 159 and S.R. 180 was selected. However, due to subsequent environmental studies that identified an impact to a Category 3 wetland identified as a fen within the project alignment, the project has been redesigned and the alignment moved slightly south to avoid this unique ecological resource. As a result, the new alternative will connect the roadway to S.R. 159 with a roundabout, and a second roundabout will be constructed at the junction of S.R. 159 and S.R. 180 to aid in the movement of traffic and enhance safety.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Aligning with the Ross County Thoroughfare Plan, the Ross-207 Extension serves to address safety concerns, regional connectivity, and current and future development. As increased traffic volumes are anticipated, the new route will improve the area's transportation infrastructure by moving traffic from narrow, rural roads to an improved state highway system. In addition to promoting safety on these routes, upgrades to the intersections with S.R. 159 and S.R. 180 with the construction of roundabouts will address identified safety concerns and sight distance issues at their junctions. The project also serves to leverage the investments in economic development and support ongoing business and industrial growth north of Chillicothe.