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ODOT preparing for another near-record construction season

Since 2011, we've invested \$16.4 billion into nearly 8,000 projects

COLUMBUS - This year, the Ohio Department of Transportation is investing \$2.35 billion into nearly 1,000 projects that will preserve existing roads and bridges, enhance capacity, and improve safety.

"Roads and bridges don't get better over time. That's why 90 cents of every dollar we're investing this year is to take care of what we have," said ODOT Director Jerry Wray. "We're using better data and more frequent maintenance to address the small issues with our infrastructure before they become big issues."

ODOT and contractors will repair or replace 5,645 miles of pavement, enough to pave a four-lane highway from Columbus to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and perform work on 1,040 bridges.

While orange barrels can be an inconvenience, they are a sign of progress and improvement. Since 2011, ODOT has invested an unprecedented \$16.4 billion into 7,918 projects across the state. ODOT is responsible for maintaining 43,211 lane miles of roadway and 14,095 bridges. Ohio has the 4th largest interstate system by lane miles. Ohio's transportation infrastructure supports the state's 6.5 million jobs.

"Our transportation network is Ohio's most valuable man-made asset," said Wray. "It gives us the ability to move goods to market, get to work, take our children to school, visit an amusement park or explore the beautiful natural wonders of Ohio."

In District 11 there are:

- 101 Total Projects *worth more than \$180 million*
- 24 Slide Repairs
- 26 Pavement Projects
- 19 Bridge/Culvert Projects
- 7 Safety Improvements

Despite a near-record level of road work, last year saw the second lowest number of work zone crashes in a decade in Ohio. There were 4,891 work zone crashes, resulting in 119 serious injuries and 19 deaths. The vast majority of these crashes were caused by drivers following too close.

“We need drivers to pay attention every moment they are behind the wheel, but it’s even more vital in work zones. These zones often contain narrow lanes and changing traffic patterns. When driving through work zones, drivers need to leave more room between their vehicle and the vehicle in front of them, slow down, pay attention, and avoid all distractions,” Wray said.

ODOT crews were struck 152 times last year. Ohio law requires that drivers move over or slow down when they see our crews working along the roadway.

Unfortunately, through the years 164 ODOT employees have lost their lives while on the job.

The environmental review consultation and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 11, 2015, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.



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