



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 11 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2011

Serving the transportation stakeholders in Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas counties.

## District 11 to use Social Media this Winter to keep motorists informed

**Becky Giauque, District Communications**

Armed with power tools and wrenches, 19 mechanics from the ODOT District 11 recently inspected, tested and fine tuned each piece of snow removal equipment to ensure it is ready for battle this winter season.

"Snow and ice removal is one of our core services and is vital to keeping Ohioans safe and our economy running each winter," said ODOT Director Jerry Wray. "Our county garages do a great job to make sure our equipment is fully operational and ready to plow the roads."

ODOT mechanics in District 11 performed a 161-point inspection on 119 snowplows, including brakes, lights, fluids and other important safety and mechanical items.

"Our mechanics implement a very strict inspection of each piece of equipment," said Division of Operations Deputy Director Sonja Simpson. "Winter readi-

ness events are vital to our overall winter maintenance strategy to certify each snowplow, truck and spreader is winter ready."

This season, ODOT will have more than 3,000 trained

to ODOT's efforts during the winter is the department's up-to-date road condition information shared to the public through its Web sites. With user-friendly, map-based features, ODOT's BuckeyeTraffic Web site had

lished for Ohio's six largest metropolitan areas two winters ago, and now we've developed an account for eastern Ohio and a way to link our road conditions available on



BuckeyeTraffic during the winter months to Twitter. When conditions change or posts are made to BuckeyeTraffic.org in one of District 11's seven counties, a 'tweet' will be sent to our followers." Designed to give motorists updated information before they leave their home or workplace, "tweets" will help drivers better prepare for the conditions they may face in their travels.



drivers – over 200 in District 11 – ready to clear snow and ice from nearly 40,000 lane miles of state roadways and bridges. State highways carry approximately two thirds of Ohio's daily traffic.

Almost as important as the snow removal equipment

more than 163 million hits last winter. To build upon the successes of [www.BuckeyeTraffic.org](http://www.BuckeyeTraffic.org), District 11 is now offering information using the very popular social networking sites of Twitter and Facebook.

District 11 Deputy Director Lloyd MacAdam said, "Twitter accounts were estab-

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# ODOT District 11 Deputy Director spearheads Road Use Maintenance

## Agreement for county engineers and townships across the state

### Becky Giauque, District Communications

The need for a standard Road Use and Maintenance Agreement (RUMA) that can be used on a statewide basis for the increased horizontal drilling activity in the Utica shale play in eastern Ohio became apparent as a result of the Regional Government to Government meetings held by ODNR and a Quarterly County Engineers meeting held by ODOT District 11 this summer.

The issue of needing a standardized RUMA was apparent by both the local government side and the shale development industry.


Industry leaders were finding varying requirements in different townships and counties they were trying to do business. Counties and townships were concerned and felt the need for a required standard agreement due to the future demand by different energy companies, which may not be as proactive as others, and it would guarantee them early notification.

In response to the county engineers and current drillers, ODOT District 11 Deputy Director Lloyd MacAdam agreed to lead this effort for them in the development

of a locally supported RUMA. The intended outcome was to develop a county/regional and perhaps statewide agreement.

MacAdam held two working sessions with all seven of District 11's county engineers, plus county engineers from Ashland, Coshocton, and Stark, as well as the Senior Policy Analyst from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and the Executive Director of the Ohio Township Association, to draft a standardized agreement. The agreement was also reviewed and commented on

by the Oil and Gas Exploration Society through Chesapeake Energy. A meeting will be held in December to finalize the agreement with a goal of presenting the final document at the CEO and CCAO Winter Conference on December 13, 2011.

MacAdam met with ODNR leaders to make the case for this standardized statewide agreement, they agreed. Effective January 1, 2012, this RUMA will be a check-off in the permitting process for a new Horizontal Oil and Gas Well Permit. 

## ODOT urges caution to shoppers; intersection crashes increase during holidays

### Becky Giauque, District Communications

Although the holidays are the most wonderful time of the year, they can also be one of the most dangerous as motorists are more likely to be involved in a crash – especially at busy intersections near malls and shopping districts.

According to ODOT, intersection crashes spiked nearly 20 percent during the 2010 holiday shopping season (Thanksgiving to Christmas) when compared to other months of the year. In addition, intersection crashes increase dramatically on Sunday, which is typically the safest day to travel throughout the year.

"Heavy traffic, complex traffic patterns and multiple driveways near intersections increase the potential for people and vehicles to collide," said ODOT Director Jerry Wray. "You can avoid a crash and reduce the risk of serious injuries by being patient and giving walking, riding and driving your full attention around malls this holiday season."

In 2010, there were 12,256 crashes at intersections in Ohio during the shopping season – 4,329 people were injured and 33 people were killed. Most crashes were angle and rear-end collisions, often caused by motorists following too close to other vehicles or misjudging the gap in traffic when turning at an intersection or driveway.

Cell phones, texting and other distractions are also an increasing concern. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that about 20 percent of injury crashes nationwide involved reports of distracted driving.

"You can prevent crashes in Ohio by 'parking' your cell phone until your vehicle is safely parked," Wray added. "No call or text is worth the potential risk."

From 2006-2010, there were 291 crashes at eastern Ohio intersections during the holiday period. That's an increase of 12 percent over the average monthly intersection crash rate. The greatest increase in crashes was seen in Holmes County which went up 29 percent; however, it also increased by 23 percent in Jefferson County.

ODOT urges drivers to keep these intersection safety tips in mind to protect themselves and their passengers this holiday season:


1. Stay alert, slow down and drive defensively when approaching an intersection. Allow extra time to get to your destination.
2. Avoid distractions such as using a mobile phone, eating, drinking and listening to loud music while driving.
3. Don't try to beat a red light.

Traffic signals are there to guide motorists through complex turns and other traffic movements as well as provide safe crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.

4. Be cautious, even with a green light, and look both ways before entering an intersection to make sure all cross traffic has stopped.
5. Never change lanes in an intersection. Changing lanes increases confusion and adds to the complexity of successfully navigating through an intersection.
6. Watch for increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic at intersections.
7. Buckle up. It can significantly increase your chance of surviving a crash.
8. Do not drink and drive. Impaired driving is a leading cause of fatalities and serious injuries.
9. Maintain a safe stopping distance between you and the vehicle ahead. ODOT recommends one car length for every 10 mph.
10. Don't crowd the plow. The holidays mean the return of snow and ice conditions. Increase your distance between cars, trucks and plows

during storm events. If you have to pass a plow, use extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.

To improve safety at intersections, ODOT has invested about \$13 million over the past two years to improve the reliability and visibility of signals. The department has installed reflective back plates on signals, battery backup systems to maintain power during outages, and brighter LED signal bulbs. ODOT also invests about \$72 million annually in projects that improve road safety statewide.

Intersection safety is one of the major roadway safety initiatives in ODOT's "Every Move You Make, Keep it Safe" campaign. Programs included are Safe Routes to Schools, Roadway Departure Crash Reduction and Intersection Safety. The public is invited to find out more by visiting [www.everymove.ohio.gov](http://www.everymove.ohio.gov). 

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISTRICT 11  
2201 REISER AVENUE SE  
NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663  
PHONE: (330) 339-6633 FAX: (330) 308-3942

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:  
[WWW.TRANSPORTATION.OHIO.GOV/DIST11](http://WWW.TRANSPORTATION.OHIO.GOV/DIST11)  
[WWW.BUCKEYETRAFFIC.ORG](http://WWW.BUCKEYETRAFFIC.ORG)

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

 JERRY WRAY, ODOT DIRECTOR  
LLOYD MACADAM,  
DISTRICT 11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BECKY GIAUQUE, DISTRICT 11  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE