Green Lantern Sought to Help Protect Snowplows

Taking a cue from the comic book superhero who uses green light to protect the people of Earth, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is hoping a Green Lantern will protect its snowplows from a dangerous spike in crashes this season.

Only one month into this year’s winter weather—and at least three more months to go—the number of crashes involving drivers hitting ODOT snowplows has already surpassed last year’s total. So far there have been 63 crashes statewide, compared to 57 all of last winter.

As part of the department’s legislative requests for the 2012-2013 State Transportation Budget, ODOT is proposing the use of green lanterns—flashing LED lights placed atop snow removal equipment—as a way to help snowplows be seen better on the highway.

Currently, Ohio Revised Code only allows ODOT to use yellow flashing lights, commonly shared by other non-emergency vehicles such as tow trucks and mail delivery vehicles. Research indicates that green lights have a better visibility in snowy, wintry conditions.

Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit. According to ODOT’s safety experts, many of these crashes are caused by drivers who don’t anticipate how fast they will approach the slower-moving plow—crashing into the back of the truck.

In other crashes, drivers have difficulty seeing through the cloud created as the plow clears ice and snow from the highway. Both types of crashes are often severe and have led to serious injuries and fatalities.

By increasing visibility, the green lanterns should help motorists spot snowplows sooner—even in the darkest and snowiest conditions—and give drivers ample time to slow down and avoid the potential of a crash.

Until then, ODOT reminds motorists “DON’T CROWD THE PLOW” and offers these safety precautions:

- Keep Your Distance: Give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don’t tailgate and try not to pass.
- Beware of the Snow Cloud: If you pass a snowplow, take extreme caution. The plow often creates a cloud of snow and ice which can be hard to see through.
- See and Be Seen: Because the equipment is so large, a snowplow operator’s field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don’t always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops.

For more winter driving tips and current road conditions, log on to www.BuckeyeTraffic.org—ODOT’s premier Web site for travel information—and click on the orange “Ice and Snow… Take It Slow” icon.

Dispatch Staff

Dispatch Staff

Communicating with the people of District 12

ODOT Welcomes New Leadership

Amanda Lee and Jocelynn Clemings

Governor John Kasich has named former Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jerry Wray to once again head the Department.

Director Wray was the ODOT director from 1991-97 under Governor Voinovich and was instrumental in structuring the Department to become a more efficient and effective transportation agency. He began his career with ODOT as an engineer from 1969-77 before becoming the Deputy Licking County Engineer from 1977-81 followed by his election as the Licking County Engineer.

On January 10, Director Wray introduced Myron S. Pakush as the new District 12 Deputy Director.

(Above) Director Wray will once again lead the Ohio Department of Transportation.

(Above) Deputy Director Myron S. Pakush will lead District 12.

“It is with great pleasure to announce ODOT’s new transportation leaders,” said ODOT Director Jerry Wray. “I am confident in our team and entrust them to make the best decisions for Ohio as we diligently work to improve and enhance our world-class transportation system.”

Working collaboratively with the District’s administrators, District Deputy Directors perform a vital leadership role by assisting the department in strategic transportation planning, policy development and implementation of the statewide transportation initiatives.

Prior to returning to ODOT District 12, Pakush served as a transportation planning engineer for the architecture, planning and
New Leadership, Continued

From page 1

engineering firm CT Consultants, Inc., located in Mentor, where he worked on a variety of transportation projects with local governments in primarily the northeast Ohio region.

“It’s good to be home! I am comfortable to come back here after spending 10 years in Districts 5 and 11. I look forward to bringing the knowledge and experience I have gained working in other districts back here to District 12 to help everybody in their respective areas.”

Myron Pakush, District 12 Deputy Director

Before his time in the private sector, Pakush spent nearly 18 years working for the Ohio Department of Transportation in various roles throughout the state of Ohio. Most notably, Pakush served as District Deputy Director in both Districts 5 and 11 in east-central Ohio. Pakush began his career in District 12 as an environmental engineer where he served nearly seven years in that capacity followed by his role as the District 5 Planning Administrator.

“It’s good to be home,” Pakush said. “I am comfortable to come back here after spending nearly 10 years in Districts 5 and 11. I look forward to bringing the knowledge and experience I have gained working in other districts back here to District 12 to help everybody in their respective areas.”

Planning and Production Employee of the Quarter

The Planning and Production Recognition and Reward Committee has selected Gary Nowac for his invaluable role in the Production Department as the Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter of 2010.

Gary does an outstanding job of assisting customers both internally and externally. He is easy to work with and goes the extra mile to make sure things are completed.

Gary has worked on two large Interstate Rehabilitation projects, including I-90 in Lake County and I-77 in Cuyahoga County.

While working on these projects Gary has shown patience and professionalism in dealing with other Districts and departments within ODOT and has helped others to understand the new addendum policy.

Pakush recalled being a part of the Engineer in Training (EIT) program at District 12 beginning in 1989. This experience gave him the opportunity to learn about all of the departments within ODOT and ultimately lead him to the decision of taking a position within the Planning Department.

“I worked on a lot of projects in planning and I learned a lot about this region based on those projects,” added Pakush.

His knowledge of the region and leadership experience with ODOT and other agencies gives him a good feeling about coming back home.

Pakush holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Toledo and is a member of the American Society of Highway Engineers and National Society of Professional Engineers.

He is a native of Lorain, Ohio and currently resides in Rocky River.

NEWS IN THE MAKING: Around District 12

Familiar Faces, New Places

Recently, many members of the District 12 staff have been transitioned into new positions and the Ohio Department of Transportation would like to congratulate them.

Kitti Koziura is now on board in District 12 as the Human Resources Manager after transferring from District 3. Kitti had been temporarily working out of District 3 until renovations were complete in Employee Services.

Director Myron Pakush named Kathey Germany Acting Business and Human Resources Administrator and Bill Hudec, Jr. Acting Labor Relations Officer.

Kathie will continue in her position as Network Administration Supervisor and Bill will continue as Quality and Efficiency Coordinator while they fill these positions.

District 12 would like to wish all these familiar faces the best of luck in their new positions! 

Customer Kudo Corner

District 12 is being recognized by its customers for its excellent customer service. The following are messages received recently in gratitude of ODOT’s hard work!

Dear ODOT,

I wanted to express thanks to the ODOT IT support for setting up the Innerbelt Project Management Office and making us feel part of the ODOT team. It seemed like a seamless operation from our perspective. And it dawned on me today that you all set-up an office that was essentially operational on day one – this is a huge accomplishment. I have been involved with a few office set-ups – none have gone more smoothly.

Thank you.

Paul Gluck, P.E., PMP
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

If you’ve received a letter, e-mail, or phone call of thanks, the Dispatch would like to hear about it. Please contact D12.PublicInformation@dot.state.oh.us if you’ve received a Customer Kudo that you would like to share!

NEWS IN THE MAKING: Around District 12

Mark your Calendar:

Blood Drive: February 2
National Wear Red Day: February 4
President’s Day: February 21

Coworker Kudo Corner

District 12 is being recognized by its customers for its excellent customer service, and now we’re recognizing District employees for their contributions!

Kathey Germany and Fred Caraballo,

A big "thank you" to you and your team for all the hours of work and meetings to get the Innerbelt office up and running. This was a big undertaking and something we at ODOT are not accustomed to doing.

This was a huge savings through our in-house IT staff. Thanks for bearing with all the last minute changes and adjustments as we went. All computers and facilities are up and functioning as requested.

Tom Hyland
ODOT District 12 Area Engineer

Dear ODOT,

I just traveled to District 12 for the first time yesterday. After surpassing the 8” snow threshold for two days in a row on top of the snow already received, the roads looked fantastic! It was very apparent that Dennis Albrecht and his folks take the Pledge of Safety First! I will focus each day on Safety: my own, my teammates, our workplace, our work practices, and our customers - the traveling public - with a “Target: Zero” goal for any and all safety hazards to heart. Thank you for a very pleasurable trip.

Thanks again,

Debra Bateman
Office of Safety Administrator

If you would like to give a coworker a “kudo,” the Dispatch would like to hear about it! Please contact D12.PublicInformation@dot.state.oh.us if you’d like to share a “Coworker Kudo” with all of District 12!
Myron Pakush, District 12 Deputy Director

Before his time in the private sector, Pakush spent nearly 18 years working for the Ohio Department of Transportation in various roles throughout the state of Ohio. Most notably, Pakush served as District Deputy Director in both Districts 5 and 11 in east-central Ohio. Pakush began his career in District 12 as an environmental engineer where he served nearly seven years in that capacity followed by his role as the District 5 Planning Administrator.

“It's good to be home,” Pakush said. “I am comfortable to come back here after spending nearly 10 years in Districts 5 and 11. I look forward to bringing the knowledge and experience I have gained working in other districts back here to District 12 to help everybody in their respective areas.”

Gary Nowaczyk, Network Administrator

Gary is a tremendous asset to the Production Department. Recently, a few projects were in need of new project managers, due to some personnel shuffling, and Gary stepped in to assist. His knowledge of the region and leadership experience with ODOT and other agencies gives him a good feeling about coming back home.

Pakush holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Toledo and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Highway Engineers and National Society of Professional Engineers. He is a native of Lorain, Ohio and currently resides in Rocky River.

Planning and Production Employee of the Quarter

The Planning and Production Recognition and Reward Committee has selected Gary Nowaczyk for his invaluable role in the Production Department as the Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd quarter of 2010. Gary does an outstanding job of assisting customers both internally and externally. He is easy to work with and goes the extra mile to make sure things are completed.

Gary has worked on two large Interstate Rehabilitation projects, including I-90 in Lake County and I-77 in Cuyahoga County. While working on these projects Gary has shown patience and professionalism in dealing with other Districts and departments within ODOT and has helped others to understand the new addendum policy.

Pakush recalled being a part of the Engineer in Training (EIT) program at District 12 beginning in 1989. This experience gave him the opportunity to learn about all of the departments within ODOT and ultimately lead him to the decision of taking a position within the Planning Department.

“I worked on a lot of projects in planning and I learned a lot about this region based on those projects,” added Pakush.

His knowledge of the region and leadership experience with ODOT and other agencies gives him a good feeling about coming back home.

Customer Kudo Corner

District 12 is being recognized by its customers for its excellent customer service. The following are messages received recently in gratitude of ODOT’s hard work!

Dear ODOT,

I wanted to express thanks to the ODOT IT support for setting up the Innerbelt Project Management Office and making us feel part of the ODOT team. It seemed like a seamless operation from our perspective. And it dawned on me today that you all set-up an office that was essentially operational on day one – this is a huge accomplishment. I have been involved with a few office set-ups – none have gone more smoothly.

Thank you.

Paul Gluck, P.E., PMP
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Dave Ray.

I just traveled to District 12 for the first time yesterday. After surpassing the 8” snow threshold for two days in a row on top of the snow already received, the roads looked fantastic! It was very apparent that Dennis Albrecht and his folks take the Pledge of Safety First: I will focus each day on Safety: my own, my teammates, our workplace, our work practices, and our customers - the traveling public - with a “Target: Zero” goal for any and all safety hazards to heart. Thank you for a very pleasurable trip.

Thanks again,
Debra Bateman
Office of Safety Administrator

NEWS IN THE MAKING: Around District 12

Familiar Faces, New Places

Recently, many members of the District 12 staff have been transitioned into new positions and the Ohio Department of Transportation would like to congratulate them.

Kitti Kozuira is now on board in District 12 as the Human Resources Manager after transferring from District 3. Kitti had been temporarily working out of District 3 until renovations were complete in Employee Services.

Director Myron Pakush named Kathey Germany Acting Business and Human Resources Administrator and Bill Hudec, Jr. Acting Labor Relations Officer.

Kathi will continue in her position as Network Administration Supervisor and Bill will continue as Quality and Efficiency Coordinator while they fill these positions.

District 12 would like to wish all these familiar faces the best of luck in their new positions!

SECRETARY’S WISHES

Kitti had been temporarily working out of District 3 until renovations were complete in Employee Services.

Recently, many members of the District 12 staff have been transitioned into new positions and the Ohio Department of Transportation would like to congratulate them.

Kitti Kozuira is now on board in District 12 as the Human Resources Manager after transferring from District 3. Kitti had been temporarily working out of District 3 until renovations were complete in Employee Services.

Director Myron Pakush named Kathey Germany Acting Business and Human Resources Administrator and Bill Hudec, Jr. Acting Labor Relations Officer.

Kathi will continue in her position as Network Administration Supervisor and Bill will continue as Quality and Efficiency Coordinator while they fill these positions.

District 12 would like to wish all these familiar faces the best of luck in their new positions!

Mark your Calendar:

Blood Drive: February 2
National Wear Red Day: February 4
President’s Day: February 21

Coworker Kudo Corner

District 12 is being recognized by its customers for its excellent customer service, and now we’re recognizing District employees for their contributions!

Kathey Germany and Fred Caraballo,

A big “thank you” to you and your team for all the hours of work and meetings to get the Innerbelt office up and running. This was a big undertaking and something we all feel that ODOT are not accustomed to doing.

This was a huge savings through our in-house IT staff. Thanks for bearing with all the last minute changes and adjustments as we went. All computers and facilities are up and functioning as requested.

Tom Hyland
ODOT District 12 Area Engineer

If you would like to give a coworker a “kudo,” the ODOT office for their contributions!

Dave Ray.

If you would like to give a coworker a “kudo,” the Dispatch would like to hear about it! Please contact D12. PublicInformation@dot.state.oh.us if you’ve received a Customer Kudo that you would like to share!
Green Lantern Sought to Help Protect Snowplows

Dispatch Staff

Taking a cue from the comic book superhero who uses green light to protect the people of Earth, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is hoping a Green Lantern will protect its snowplows from a dangerous spike in crashes this season.

Only one month into this year’s winter weather – and at least three more months to go – the number of crashes involving drivers hitting ODOT snowplows has already surpassed last year’s total. So far there have been 63 crashes statewide, compared to 57 all of last winter.

As part of the department’s legislative requests for the 2012–2013 State Transportation Budget, ODOT is proposing the use of green lanterns – flashing LED lights placed atop snow removal equipment – as a way to help snowplows be seen better on the highway.

Currently, Ohio Revised Code only allows ODOT to use yellow flashing lights, commonly shared by other non-emergency vehicles such as tow trucks and mail delivery vehicles. Research indicates that green lights have a better visibility in snowy, wintry conditions.

Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit. According to ODOT’s safety experts, many of these crashes are caused by drivers who don’t anticipate how fast they will approach the slower-moving plow – crashing into the back of the truck.

In other crashes, drivers have difficulty seeing through the cloud created as the plow clears ice and snow from the highway. Both types of crashes are often severe and have led to serious injuries and fatalities.

By increasing visibility, the green lanterns should help motorists spot snowplows sooner – even in the darkest and snowiest conditions – and give drivers ample time to slow down and avoid the potential of a crash.

With a change in administration, the final decision on whether to allow ODOT to use green lanterns will be decided by Governor Kasich and the new state Legislature. The change wouldn’t go into effect until next winter season.

Until then, ODOT reminds motorists “DON’T CROWD THE PLOW” and offers these safety precautions:

• Keep Your Distance: Give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don’t tailgate and try not to pass.
• Beware of the Snow Cloud: If you pass a snowplow, take extreme caution. The plow often creates a cloud of snow and ice which can be hard to see through.
• See and Be Seen: Because the equipment is so large, a snowplow operator’s field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don’t always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops.

For more winter driving tips and current road conditions, visit www.BuckeyeTraffic.org – ODOT’s premier Web site for travel information – and click on the orange “Ice and Snow… Take It Slow” icon.

www.BuckeyeTraffic.org

Communicating with the people of District 12

ODOT Welcomes New Leadership

Amanda Lee and Jocelynn Clemings

Governor John Kasich has named former Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jerry Wray to once again head the Department.

Director Wray was the ODOT director from 1991-97 under Governor Voinovich and was instrumental in structuring the Department to become a more efficient and effective transportation agency. He began his career with ODOT as an engineer from 1969-77 before becoming the Deputy Licking County Engineer from 1977-81 followed by his election as the Licking County Engineer.

On January 10, Director Wray introduced Myron S. Pakush as the new District 12 Deputy Director.

(Above) Deputy Director Myron S. Pakush will lead District 12.

“I am confident in our team and entrust them to make the best decisions for Ohio as we diligently work to improve and enhance our world-class transportation system.”

Working collaboratively with the District’s administrators, District Deputy Directors perform a vital leadership role by assisting the department in strategic transportation planning, policy development and implementation of the statewide transportation initiatives.

Prior to returning to ODOT District 12, Pakush served as a transportation planning engineer for the architecture, planning and