Northern Ohio Truck Traffic Fact Sheet
August 11, 2004

Background:
The Ohio Turnpike is a very safe road with little or no congestion. However, many trucks avoid the turnpike. As a result, Ohio’s rural routes have experienced an influx of truck traffic, causing safety and congestion concerns.

Truck Traffic:
- Truck traffic on Ohio’s Interstate highways grew 54 percent between 1994 and 2002;
- Truck traffic on the Ohio turnpike was relatively static during this period.
- Rural routes in northern Ohio have been inordinately impacted by truck traffic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route, County</th>
<th>1994 Trucks</th>
<th>2002 Trucks</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SR 2, Ottawa</td>
<td>1,610</td>
<td>3,010</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 20, Huron</td>
<td>2,530</td>
<td>4,420</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 422, Geauga</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>267%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Safety:
- By their nature, rural two-lane roads are less safe than rural freeways, with crash rates two to four times greater.
- Many Northern Ohio roads have exceptionally high crash rates; of the ten worst two-lane roads in Ohio, seven are routes in northern Ohio that trucks use to avoid the turnpike.

The Ohio Turnpike:
- Is a very safe road, with low accident rates.
- Has average volume of 9,400 trucks per day, much lower than Ohio’s other Interstate highways, which routinely average 15,000 trucks per day.
- Diverting trucks to the Ohio Turnpike will have no discernable impact on the turnpike’s traffic congestion.

Potential Incentives for More Trucks to Use the Turnpike:
- Increase truck speed limit to 65 miles per hour on the turnpike, and monitor for any negative impacts on traffic safety.
- Increase enforcement of truck weights on routes which parallel the Ohio Turnpike.
- On a trial basis, implement a toll reduction or rebate program, which guarantees debt quality for the turnpike’s bond holders, while providing a meaningful toll reduction to truckers.