

Traffic Advisory

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS - 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us>

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY TRAFFIC UPDATE

COLUMBUS (Thursday, December 20, 2007) – The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) knows the coming holidays will be a busy time for the state's roads and highways. The department expects holiday traffic to be at its peak the Saturday before Christmas, when Ohio's rural highway traffic volumes could increase by 41 percent over the typical monthly average.

ODOT reminds motorists that during these winter months, travel conditions can change from mile to mile, minute to minute. Before leaving home, find out the latest driving conditions by logging on to www.BuckeyeTraffic.org. Safe drivers know the weather and their limits. If the weather is bad, remember, Ice and Snow...Take it Slow.

While work is suspended in many of the state's construction zones during this time, lane restrictions or detours may still affect your holiday commute. Where possible, ODOT opens additional lanes of traffic and requires contractors to maintain at least two lanes of traffic in each direction on Ohio's interstates. To aid motorists, ODOT is providing this comprehensive list of major state construction projects.

Northwestern Ohio

U.S. Route 20, Sandusky and Wood counties

U.S. 20 is being widened from two lanes to five from Pine St. in Woodville to the U.S. 20/SR 420 interchange. Westbound and eastbound lanes are reduced to 11 feet with a restriction of eight feet, six inches currently in effect throughout the construction zone. One lane in both directions will be maintained at all times. While the work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures until Jan. 21, 2008. Completion date: mid-November 2009.

U.S. Route 24, Defiance and Henry counties

Widening and reconstruction of U.S. 24 between the city of Napoleon and the city of Defiance. Some lane restrictions will be required, but traffic on U.S. 24 is maintained at all times. Traffic is now four lanes from just east of SR 66 to just east of Domersville Rd. The interchange with SR 281 and U.S. 24 is now open. Completion date: fall 2008.

U.S. Route 24, Defiance County

The reconstruction of the existing two lanes of U.S. 24 and the construction of two additional lanes to expand the route to a four-lane highway. The existing four-lane section from SR 15 to SR 66 is reduced to one lane in each direction. Traffic is switched into the new westbound lanes between the

U.S. 24 bypass and SR 424 to allow for construction of the new eastbound lanes. Completion date: November 2008.

State Route 25, Wood County

SR 25, from Roachton Rd. to Front St., has intermittent lane restrictions between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily until the end of January to install traffic signal poles and traffic signals. Two-way traffic will be maintained with flaggers. Minor delays possible. Work will be suspended over the holiday. Completion date: Jan. 15, 2007.

Interstate 280, Lucas County

Construction of the Veterans' Glass City Skyway Bridge over the Maumee River on I-280. The new bridge is open to three lanes of traffic in each direction. While intermittent lane closures will continue through December for finishing activities, work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures. Completion date: summer 2008.

Interstate 280, Lucas County

Work crews are planting trees and preparing planting beds along the right shoulders in both directions on I-280, between Navarre and Manhattan, from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily. No lane closures are anticipated, but motorists should be aware of workers near the roadway and of possible shoulder closures. Completion date (Estimated): October 31, 2009 (weather permitting).

State Route 576, Williams County

SR 576 is closed south of Montpelier, between U.S. 6 and SR 34 in Williams County due to culvert failure. Detour is posted. Due to the nature of the project, the completion date is unknown at this time. Visit this link for details: <http://www.odotonline.org/detours/detour.asp?detNumber=509>

Northeastern Ohio

State Route 8, Summit County

Reconstruction of SR 8 from south of Twinsburg Rd. to north of the I-271 interchange. Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be maintained on SR 8 at all times. Twinsburg Rd. at SR 8 is closed, and will reopen as an underpass in late fall 2009. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures. Detours are posted. Completion date: summer 2010.

State Route 19, Crawford County

SR 19, one-half mile north of Albaugh Rd. in Lykens Township, is closed for an unanticipated embankment repair project. Detour is posted. The project includes underground geotechnical work. ODOT crews are testing and studying the area by drilling to discover the extent of the situation and develop a remediation plan. Due to the nature of the problem, a completion date cannot be given at this time. The closure will remain in place until the scope of this problem is determined and a solution is implemented.

U.S. Route 20, Lake County

Widening and reconstruction on U.S. 20, from the Mentor corporation line to the Painesville corporation line. One lane of traffic in each direction is maintained on U.S. 20 at all times. Permanent work zone restrictions remain in place over the holidays. Completion date: summer 2008.

Interstate 77, Stark County

Widening and reconstruction on I-77 from W. Tuscarawas St. (SR 172) to 13th St. A minimum of two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction on I-77. Completion date: June 2008.

Interstate 77, Summit County

Widening and reconstruction on I-77 from Copley Rd. (SR 162) to Cleveland-Massillon Rd. in the cities of Akron and Fairlawn, and in Bath and Copley townships. A minimum of two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction on I-77 through construction. Completion date: fall 2008.

Interstate 80, Mahoning County

Widening the roadway and construction of new twin bridges over the Meander Reservoir on I-80, between SR 45 and the SR 11 interchange. Two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures. Completion date: fall 2009.

Interstate 271, Summit County

I-271 over SR 8 is reduced to one through lane and one exit only lane in each direction as part of the SR 8/I-271 reconstruction project. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures. Completion date: summer 2010.

Interstate 271, Summit County

I-271 over the Cuyahoga River in Boston Township is reduced to one lane in each direction during off peak hours for major reconstruction. This work is part of a \$33 million project for replacing the I-271 twin bridges over the Cuyahoga River and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Completion date: fall 2009.

State Route 283, Lake County

Reconstruction of SR 283 between SR 615 (Munson Rd.) and Washington Ave. One lane of northeast traffic is maintained. Detours are posted for traffic traveling in the southwest direction. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday. Completion date: October 2008.

U.S. Route 322, Cuyahoga County

Widening and reconstruction of U.S. 322 (Mayfield Rd.) between Lander Rd. and the eastern Mayfield Heights corporation limit. Construction currently takes place between Wal-Mart Dr. and the eastern Mayfield Heights corporation limit only. Traffic is maintained throughout the project's limits. Left turns are permitted only at signalized intersections. While permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday. Completion date: fall 2009.

U.S. Route 422, Geauga County

Reconstruction of U.S. 422, including four driving lanes and a center turn lane between SR 88 and the Portage County line in Parkman and Nelson townships. Eastbound traffic is maintained. Westbound traffic will be detoured for the duration of the project. Detours are posted. Permanent work zone restrictions remain in place over the holiday. Completion date: fall 2008.

Western Ohio**U.S. Route 35, Montgomery County**

Major repair and replacement of roadway and bridges, from I-75 to just east of the current Steve Whalen Blvd. exit. Two lanes of traffic are open in the westbound direction. Three lanes are open in the eastbound direction. Traffic is shifted on U.S. 35 westbound, where there are 10-foot, 6-inch lane width restrictions in place. The U.S. 35 eastbound ramp to Keowee St. is closed within the work zone. Motorists should expect congestion and delays. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures. Detours are posted. Completion date: spring 2008.

Interstate 70/Huber Heights, Montgomery County

Work continues on I-70 from the I-70/I-75 interchange to east of the Clark County line for the reconstruction and widening of I-70. Two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction. Motorists should use caution and reduce their speed through this area. Expect congestion and possible delays. The I-70 eastbound off ramp and the I-70 westbound on ramp at SR 201 will be closed until mid-December, follow the detour signing as provided. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, there will be no additional lane closures over the holiday. Completion date: summer 2008.

Interstate 70/Interstate 75, Montgomery County

Reconstruction continues at the I-70/I-75 interchange just north of Dayton. Two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction on I-70 through the interchange. I-75 is reduced to two lanes in each direction between U.S. 40 and just south of I-70. Motorists should use caution and reduce their speed through this area. Expect congestion and possible delays. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, there will be no additional lane closures over the holiday. Completion date: summer 2009.

Interstate 75, Montgomery County

Phase 1A of the modernization of I-75 through downtown Dayton. Work is being performed during daylight hours from Stanley Ave. south to Main St. The following ramps have been permanently closed: Grand Ave. to I-75 northbound; Grand Ave. connector to Main St.; and I-75 southbound to Leo / Keowee St. exit. Shaw Ave. is open to local traffic only. There will be no lane closures in effect during the holiday. Completion date: June 2011.

Central Ohio

State Route 161, Licking County

A major expansion project on SR 161, including several road alignment changes, from east of New Albany to Newark. Traffic will be maintained on one lane of two-way traffic with temporary traffic signals and flaggers. The speed limit has been reduced to 45 miles per hour. Traffic will be slowed during the holiday weekend due to the construction and to several county and township roads closed along the route. Completion date: October 2009.

Interstate 270, Franklin County

Major reconstruction of the I-71 and I-270 interchange on the north side of Columbus. All lanes are open. Work is suspended over the holiday and there will be no lane closures. Completion date: May 2008.

Interstate 270/State Route 161, Franklin County

Major reconstruction of the SR 161 interchanges at I-270 and Sunbury Rd. on the northeast side of Columbus. Traffic patterns, ramps and signals have changed significantly. The speed limit on SR

161 westbound at Sunbury Rd. is reduced to 45 mph. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended for the holiday and there will be no additional lane closures. Completion date: June 2008.

Eastern Ohio

State Route 170, Columbiana County

Reconstruction and widening from just west of CR 447 to just south of CR 430 in Calcutta. To minimize traffic delays caused by this work and inconvenience to motorists, construction on SR 170 is only taking place between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Traffic is being maintained in both directions on the route, however, motorists are advised to use an alternate route and asked to exercise caution through this area. Completion date: June 2008.

Southwestern Ohio

U.S. Route 22 and State Route 3, Hamilton and Warren counties

Widening of Montgomery Rd. (U.S. 22 and SR 3) from Cornell Rd. to Appleseed Rd. in Hamilton County to increase capacity and improve safety. One lane of traffic in each direction north of Kemper Rd. is being maintained. Work is suspended over the Christmas holiday weekend. Completion date: fall 2008.

U.S. Route 50, Hamilton County

Widening of U.S. 50 from just east of the Mariemont east corporation line to just east of Newtown Rd. The work includes widening the existing pavement for a center turn lane, and lengthening the right turn lane approaching Newtown Rd. One lane of traffic in each direction is being maintained. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended during Christmas week and there will be no additional lane closures. Completion date: May. 31, 2008.

State Route 73, Clinton County

To accommodate construction of the Wilmington Bypass, SR 73 is closed just southeast of the intersection with Airport Rd. until May 8, 2008. Traffic is not permitted to turn right from Airport Rd. onto SR 73. Detour is posted. Completion date: fall 2010.

Interstate 275, Hamilton County

Rehabilitation of the roadway, pavement and 28 bridge structures on I-275 from just east of Winton Rd. to just east of U.S. 42. Work includes adding a fourth lane in both directions, widening the eastbound and westbound on and off ramps to Mosteller Rd., and replacing the bridge decks on the Chesterdale and U.S. 42 overpasses. During peak travel hours, three lanes of traffic on I-275 maintained in each direction. To maintain these three lanes, ODOT is shifting one lane of eastbound traffic onto the westbound side of I-275 to create an express lane through the work zone. Tractor trailers are prohibited in this lane, and there are no exits until the lane joins with mainline I-275. During the project's second phase, this lane carries eastbound traffic from just east of the Winton Rd. interchange to just east of U.S. 42. While the permanent work zone restrictions remain in place, work is suspended through Jan. 1 and there will be no additional lane closures. Completion date: fall 2010.

Southern Ohio

State Route 551, Pike County

SR 551 is closed at the Pee Pee Creek Bridge in the Lake White Region, just south of SR 220, due to damage incurred by flooding. The bridge is closed until further notice, and motorists are being detoured via SR 552.

Southeastern Ohio

State Route 124, Athens County

SR 124, just south of the Washington County line, is closed due to a significant slip. This is a permanent closure. SR 144 may be used as a detour until such time that a new state route is established.

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For Further Information, Contact: Your Local District Communications Office or Ron Poole, Central Office Communications, at (614) 644-8650.