



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ohio's Bridge Partnership

October 31, 2013

MAIN POINTS:

- ODOT is launching a new partnership with counties and cities to fully fund the replacement or repair of locally owned bridges;
- The program will invest approximately \$120 million in local bridges over three years;
- Approximately 200 county bridges and 20 city bridges are expected to be repaired or replaced;
- 40 bridges have been identified for the first year and ODOT will work with local officials to identify bridges to be repaired or replaced in the following years.

BACKGROUND:

Early in this administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation identified a \$1.6 billion budget deficit. If the agency was still reeling from this situation, a \$120 million bridge program would not be possible. ODOT tightened its own belt and was able to free up more than \$600 million within the first 18-months of taking office. Then we leveraged the turnpike to generate an additional \$1.5 billion, which grows to \$3 billion when we pair it with federal and local funds. Innovative thinking and careful management of precious resources is why we can do this \$120 million program to help counties and cities meet their bridge needs.

While Ohio's bridges are better than national averages in most reports on bridge conditions, we still have many bridges that are waiting for much-needed repairs. ODOT is doing everything it can to take care of the bridges on most interstates, U.S. Routes and State Routes, but many county and city bridges are still in need of costly repairs.

Earlier this year, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) began working with the Ohio County Engineers Association on a plan to help counties improve the condition of their bridges and make Ohio's bridges safer. Under the leadership of Gov. John R. Kasich, ODOT developed the first-of-its-kind program that is providing resources to assist counties and cities with the maintenance of bridges including bridge embankments, drainage repairs, and other related issues.

THE PROGRAM:

Ohio's Bridge Partnership will provide \$120 million to fully fund the rehabilitation or reconstruction of about 200 county and 20 city bridges in the state. These bridges are not on ODOT's interstate or state highway system, but they are still part of Ohio's transportation system and fixing them is welcome news for many local communities. The program will take about three years to complete.

THE BRIDGES:

ODOT has identified 30 county and 10 municipal bridges to be repaired or replaced beginning as early as spring 2014. ODOT will work with local officials to determine which bridges will be repaired or replaced in the coming years.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Bridges were identified using the following criteria:

- Must meet the federal bridge definition of being more than 20 feet long
- Must be "structurally deficient" – an engineering term given to bridges having maintenance issues that, while safe, still require repair
- Currently open and carrying traffic