



City of Cleveland
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor Frank G. Jackson Announces Conclusions Regarding ODOT Innerbelt Plan

CLEVELAND, April 21, 2006 – Mayor Frank G. Jackson and the City of Cleveland have worked intensively with ODOT and local stakeholders to find the best approach to rebuilding the Innerbelt in Cleveland.

“Our goal is to maximize access to local businesses and other destinations, while ensuring safe and efficient operation of the Innerbelt and nearby streets,” says Mayor Frank G. Jackson. “These conclusions are the result of our focus on that goal.

ODOT has agreed to modify its preferred alternative by reestablishing an exit ramp to Broadway to better serve the main Post Office and other uses in the Quadrangle area.

City engineers and planners have concluded that ODOT’s concern for safety is founded and, as it exists today, there is no safe way to reestablish ramps at Carnegie Avenue and Prospect Avenue. ODOT’s plan will significantly reduce travel delays and accidents on the Innerbelt, making trips to the Midtown and the larger downtown area quicker and safer.

The proposed new “frontage roads” and improved City streets appear to be able to handle new traffic patterns without serious congestion. However, final determination on this matter cannot be made until the next phase of the Innerbelt project which includes a more detailed traffic analysis.

During this phase, the City of Cleveland will work to ensure that ODOT commits to making all necessary improvements to local streets and proposed frontage roads in order to provide the best quality service to local businesses and citizens. If this cannot be accomplished, the City of Cleveland reserves the right to reexamine ODOT’s plans.

The City of Cleveland and ODOT have also established a working group to make recommendations on the design of the proposed Innerbelt bridge. Upcoming meetings will also include representatives from community organizations, designers, and transportation and economic development professionals. This will ensure that the technical design will foster economic development activities in Cleveland’s “trenches.”

Mayor Jackson and his staff will continue to work on the Innerbelt project in close partnership with Cleveland City Council President Martin J. Sweeney and City Council Members, including Joe Cimperman, Ward 13, and Phyllis Cleveland, Ward 5, in addition to several neighborhood-based organizations and other stakeholders that have been a part of the review process.