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Columbus Urban League  
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Council of Southside Organizations  
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Franklin Area Commission  
Franklin County Engineer  
The Gafford Company  
German Village Society  
Grant Medical Center – OhioHealth  
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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Miranova  
Mount Carmel West  
Nature Conservancy – Ohio Chapter  
Near East Area Commission  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Hispanic Coalition  
Ohio Rail Development Commission  
Ohio Trucking Association  
Salvation Army - Columbus  
Sierra Club - Ohio Chapter  
Southside United Neighbors  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
United Way

## PUBLIC TO REVIEW DESIGN CONCEPT FOR REBUILDING “SPLIT”

The Ohio Department of Transportation is reviewing a preliminary concept for the Interstate 70/71 downtown “split,” which would eliminate merging and weaving by creating two separate facilities for through and downtown traffic.

A similar design was used to reconstruct Ft. Washington Way in downtown Cincinnati, which links the riverfront and downtown.

Under the concept, through traffic would travel on a new and expanded freeway system with three lanes for I-70 traffic and two lanes for traffic on I-71. Currently, there is only one lane for traffic on I-71 and two lanes for I-70. The lanes would also be configured so that no lane changes would be necessary for motorists continuing through on either highway.

Although the freeway would be expanded, preliminary engineering shows that it can be done almost completely within the existing right of way so no existing homes, churches or residential buildings would be taken.



*The proposed concept to improve the I-70/71 overlap looks similar to Ft. Washington Way in downtown Cincinnati pictured above. The freeway is in the center with a parallel city street system on both sides.*

“That has been the number one concern of downtown residents and we agree,” said Project Manager Tim McDonald.

Motorists traveling into the downtown would use flyover ramps to directly connect into an improved city street system running parallel to the freeway. The improved system would be designed for 35 mph speeds, traffic lights and improved pedestrian crossings that maintain current access between neighborhoods and downtown.

This concept eliminates the need for multiple on and off ramps within the corridor, which contribute to the merging and weaving and make pedestrian crossing difficult.

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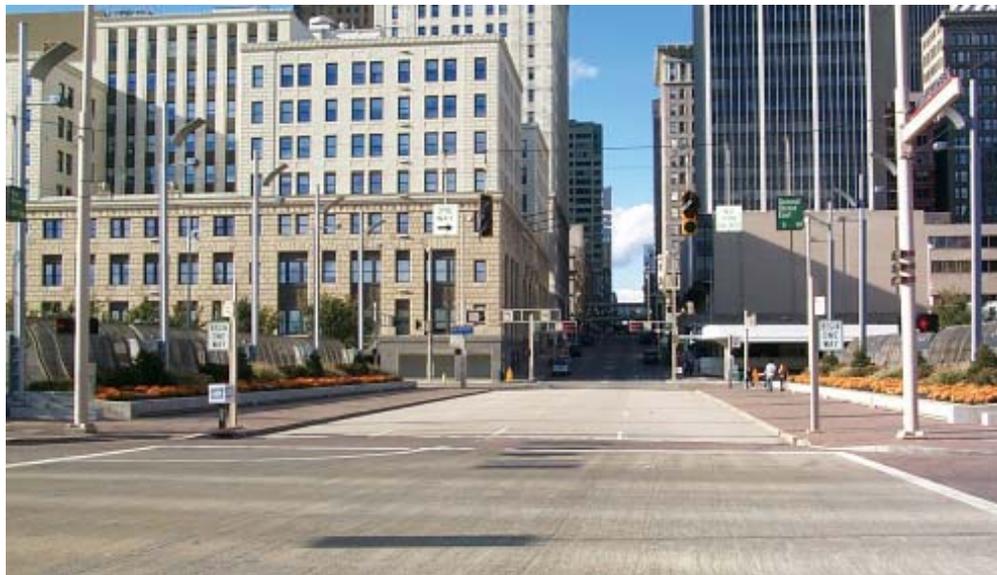
## PUBLIC MEETING

The next Public Meeting will be held:  
**November 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Health Department.**  
240 Parsons Ave. (at the corner of Parsons and East Main downtown) Free parking in rear.

# 70/71 Study Newsletter



*This pedestrian crossing at Fourth Street and Livingston Avenue is typical of crossings along the I-70/71 corridor downtown.*



*This pedestrian crossing along Ft. Washington Way in Cincinnati illustrates the types of crossing improvements that can be made in conjunction with rebuilding I-70/71.*

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## PUBLIC TO REVIEW DESIGN CONCEPT FOR REBUILDING "SPLIT"

"Both the freeway and local street system would essentially follow the current alignment, including on either side of the freeway at Livingston and Fulton," said McDonald. "This design would allow us to maximize our use of existing highway right of way and minimize the impact to private property and nearby neighborhoods."

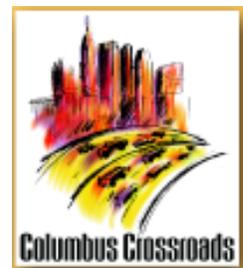
The freeway system could be expanded to accommodate future traffic by pulling back grassy slopes and pulling entrance and exit ramps out of the freeway corridor. Access on local streets would be preserved and enhanced by rebuilding Livingston and Fulton, Lester and Parsons. In the few areas where these streets would be widened, ODOT says it can push the roadway out toward the freeway to reduce the impact to private property.

ODOT will host a public meeting Nov. 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Health Department at 240 Parsons Ave. The community will have an opportunity to review drawings, ask questions, and comment on the proposed concept.

Final recommendations on a concept for fixing the freeway won't come until early next year.

"We're still at the very beginning stages of the planning process to rebuild this corridor," said McDonald. "However, now is the time to get involved and voice your opinion."

ODOT hopes to begin reconstructing the highway by 2007.



Ohio Department of Transportation  
1980 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223  
[www.7071study.org](http://www.7071study.org)

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