

# 70/71 Study Newsletter

July 2003

## SIX CONCEPTS UNDER STUDY FOR I-70/71 "SPLIT"

This summer, the Ohio Department of Transportation is evaluating six preliminary ideas that may hold the key to reducing accidents and traffic backups in the Interstate 70/71 overlap – commonly called the “downtown split.”

The ideas for improving the Interstate 70/71 overlap include:

- Rerouting traffic to other major highways
- Rebuilding the existing corridor in the downtown area
- Creating truck only lanes
- Developing alternatives such as mass transit and car pooling

These ideas, which can be seen in more detail on the back of this page, were developed through a series of community meetings held during the past few months. ODOT also received more than 350 comments from citizens. A recent public meeting drew more than 120 people who reviewed information presented by ODOT and provided feedback.

This “South Innerbelt” section of highway is one of the most congested sections of freeway in the state. This corridor serves 175,000 vehicles every day – 50,000 more than it was designed to carry. It is also a high-accident location, averaging 1,200 crashes a year – or about three every day.

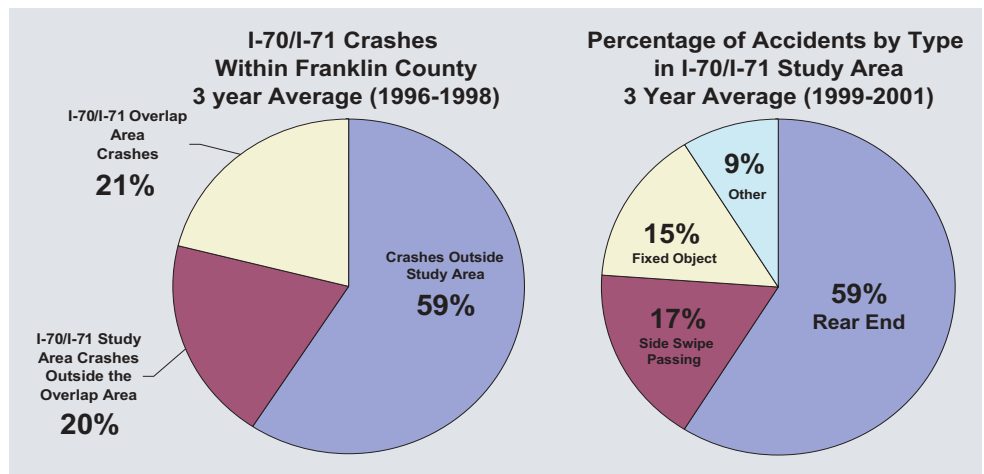
Project Manager Tim McDonald said he is very pleased with the public’s input regarding the development of solutions to the problem and he looks forward to continued public review and comment.

“We believe we are on the right track to identify a strategy for the corridor thanks in large part to the public participation,” he said. “The evaluation of these ideas and the additional information we will be collecting will help us identify the good and bad points of each idea so we can narrow our focus and develop a final plan.”

McDonald said another public meeting will be held **August 18 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.** to present additional findings and select ideas for more detailed study. ODOT hopes to have a final strategy developed by the end of the year.

To learn more about the study or to provide feedback, please visit the project website at [www.7071study.org](http://www.7071study.org)

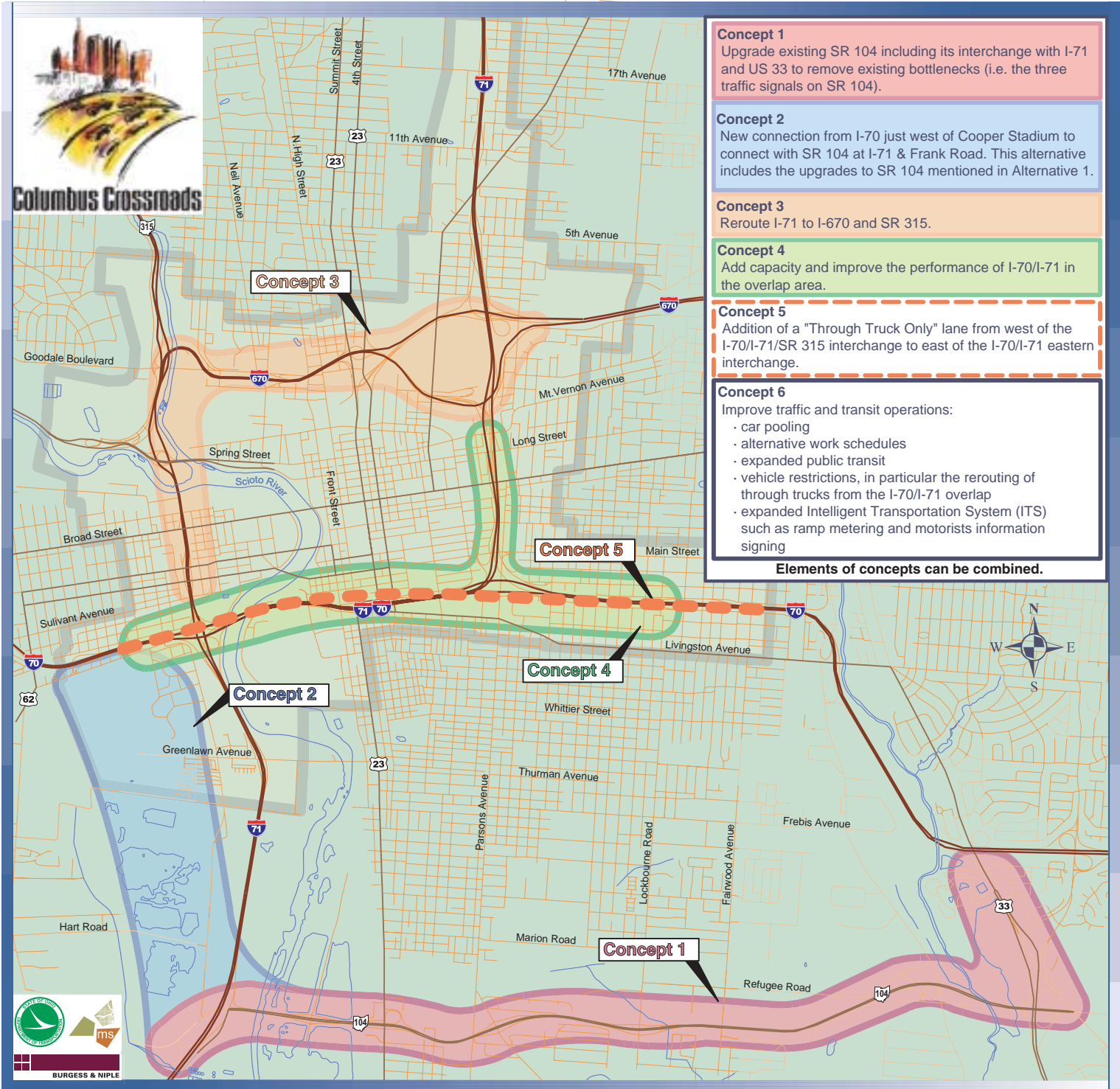
- ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
- American Electric Power
  - Baptist Ministerial Alliance
  - Baptist Pastors’ Conference
  - Brewery District Commission
  - Capital South Development Corporation
  - Children’s Hospital
  - Columbus City Center
  - Columbus Clippers
  - City of Columbus
  - Columbus City Council
  - Columbus Compact Corporation
  - Columbus Downtown Development Corporation
  - Columbus Post
  - Columbus Urban League
  - COTA
  - Council of Southside Organizations
  - Downtown Discovery District
  - Federal Highway Administration
  - Franklin County Board of Commissioners
  - Franklinton Area Commission
  - Franklin County Engineer
  - The Gafford Company
  - German Village Society
  - Grant Medical Center – OhioHealth
  - Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce
  - Greater Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau
  - Main Street Business Association
  - Metro Parks
  - 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 MEETING

Learn more about the preliminary concepts ODOT is studying. The next Public Meeting will be held: **August 18 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Health Department.** 240 Parsons Ave. (at the corner of Parsons and East Main downtown) Free parking in rear.

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## Preliminary Concepts and Elements

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

Provide your input. Join us for a public meeting August 18 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Health Department.