

RESOLUTION NO. -2025

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE FINDINGS OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S 2024 PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING U.S. 23 CORRIDOR AS THE PREFERRED APPROACH

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), in coordination with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), conducted the 2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study to evaluate conditions on U.S. 23 between the Village of Waldo and Interstate 270; and

WHEREAS, ODOT's 2024 analysis builds upon the May 2022 Preliminary Feasibility Study, which evaluated the feasibility of a free-flowing connection between Waldo and I-270 through (1) upgrades to the existing corridor, (2) a new freeway to U.S. 33, and (3) a new freeway to Interstate 71; and

WHEREAS, the May 2022 study determined that converting U.S. 23 into a fully free-flowing facility is infeasible, while concluding that targeted improvements to the existing corridor would provide meaningful benefits to tens of thousands of daily drivers; and

WHEREAS, based on these findings, ODOT advanced the 2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study as a forward-looking plan to identify and prioritize stand-alone improvements along existing U.S. 23 that can be delivered more effectively, more quickly, and with fewer impacts than constructing a new bypass; and

WHEREAS, ODOT's 2024 study concludes that the recommended improvement concepts for U.S. 23, if implemented, are expected to:

- Reduce more than 150 fatal or serious-injury crashes over a 20-year period,
- Reduce travel times between I-270 and Waldo by nearly 35 minutes in the design year, and
- Eliminate 32–34 traffic signals for U.S. 23 through-traffic between I-270 and Waldo; and

WHEREAS, ODOT publicly stated in January 2025 that improvements to the existing U.S. 23 corridor are the recommended and preferred approach, and that a new bypass is not the preferred concept; and

WHEREAS, these recent and comprehensive findings provide a clear, data-driven basis for moving forward with U.S. 23 improvements, and therefore it is not necessary to re-evaluate the need for a bypass or pursue concepts that ODOT has already determined do not offer superior benefits; and

WHEREAS, ODOT's most recent presentation to regional stakeholders indicated that a new bypass would save only 4 to 22 minutes for long-distance travelers, and that when compared with the travel-time reductions already projected from the recommended improvements to existing U.S. 23, a bypass would not provide a superior travel-time benefit and could, in practice, take longer for drivers traveling between Toledo and Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to formally acknowledge ODOT's conclusions and support a path forward that minimizes impacts to farmland, residences, natural resources, public safety, and rural community character while addressing legitimate transportation needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Peru Township, Morrow County, Ohio, that:

1. The Township formally acknowledges and accepts the conclusions of ODOT's 2024 Preliminary Feasibility Study and January 2025 findings, including the determination that improvements to the existing U.S. 23 corridor—not a new bypass—constitute the recommended and most effective approach.
2. The Township finds that there is no necessity to re-evaluate the need for a bypass, as ODOT has recently and conclusively analyzed these concepts and recommended corridor improvements as the preferred path forward.
3. The Township supports ODOT's continued development and implementation of stand-alone U.S. 23 improvements that enhance safety, reduce congestion, improve travel times, and benefit both through-traffic and local road users.
4. The Township encourages ongoing public engagement, transparency, and coordination between ODOT, local governments, and affected residents as individual improvement projects advance.

Adopted this 11 day of November, 2025.

DECEMBER

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

ATTEST:

Township Fiscal Officer