

TRUCKING—CENTRAL OHIO

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LOCATION MATTERS

Columbus is fortunate to be at the cross-roads of 2 major interstates (I-70 and I-71), have 2 international airports, 3 intermodal rail yards, 2 Class 1 rail service providers, and over 100 trucking companies. As a result, many manufacturers, distributors and logistics companies have elected to locate within the region.

OHIO FREIGHT FACTS

- 5th highest volume of truck traffic
- 3rd highest in value of truck freight
- 4th in amount of out and in-bound freight
- 13% by value of all freight traveling in the US has touched Ohio's transportation system
- Truck traffic accounts for 26% of the average annual daily traffic

WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Ohio plays a major role in the global supply chain. Columbus is strategically located within 500 miles, or a one-day truck trip, of over 50% of the U.S. population, 50% of the Canadian population, 61% of the U.S. manufacturing capacity and 80% of the U.S. corporate headquarters. Columbus, Ohio sits at a freight distribution nexus.

Crossed by eight major interstate highways, Ohio has easy southbound access through the Mid-Atlantic states to the Southeast. Ohio's east-west corridors traverse the country from coast to coast and into the Rockies.

Interstate access also provides major benefits to in-state commerce with easy travel possible from any market in the state to another.

The Ohio Department of Transportation "Freight Impacts on Ohio's Roadway System" study illustrated that truck trips are growing at a faster rate than passenger car trips in central Ohio (faster than the statewide average). Truck trips are expected to double by the year 2020. The study showed that Franklin County has more freight truck ton-miles, truck daily VMT, and truck annual value-miles than any other county in Ohio from 1998 to 2020. Likewise, more and more, freight providers traveling throughout central Ohio are evolving into rolling warehouses as consumers demand "low cost" products.

CHALLENGES

As the success of Central Ohio continues, so does the danger that the area will become victim of that success by not investing for the future accordingly. Challenges exist to maintain the region's competitive advantage. Bottlenecks threaten the efficiency and productivity of this sector of our economy.

WHAT IS CENTRAL OHIO DOING ABOUT IT?

MORPC and our public/private partners have historically partnered to ensure the success of the freight industry. Recognizing Central Ohio's unique opportunity in the freight industry, the partners actively worked to promote its success. A key example of this partnership was the improvement to Alum Creek Drive, a critical intermodal connector which began construction in June 2010.

