

MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## Memorandum

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Nick Gill, Transportation Director

**DATE:** August 23, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution T-11-22: “Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2022 for TRAC Funding”

As reported to you previously, six projects were submitted to the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) for the 2022 funding cycle. TRAC is responsible for committing development and construction funding toward projects that meet the criteria of the Major New Capacity Program (generally projects that cost over \$12 million and increase roadway capacity and/or reduce congestion). Information sheets (attached) were prepared and posted to our website over the summer with details on the projects.

Resolution T-11-22 establishes MORPC’s priorities for the 2022 TRAC funding requests that fall within MORPC’s Metropolitan Organization Planning (MPO) area. Facilitating the development and implementation of these projects is an element of implementing the strategies in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects wanting to advance with TRAC funding specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations
- OP 4: Apply access management along arterial and collector corridors
- RDWY 1: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing freeways and at interchanges
- RDWY 2: Continue conversion of key divided expressways into limited access freeways

MORPC accepted comments on the projects from the public, and staff completed a technical evaluation of the projects. This memo provides a summary of how the projects were evaluated and concludes with a recommendation on project prioritization. The priorities will be presented to TRAC at their October 12 public hearing, and upon adoption of Resolution T-11-22, submitted in writing by October 5.

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

Erlk J. Janas  
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes  
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall  
Secretary

## Project Evaluation Summary

MORPC staff evaluated the six TRAC projects requesting funding based on the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. Key elements of the MTP evaluation criteria were used for the evaluation.

For the projects being ranked, the analysis results by goal are:

*Adopted Goal: Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.*

The criteria for this goal focus on congestion relief and the total number of jobs as well as non-retail jobs within one mile of the facility at present and projected in 2050. Both the I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D and Phase 3 ranked highest for this goal, primarily due to the high number of existing and projected jobs in the area. The US 33 Southeast Corridor and the US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange showed the strongest impact on future congestion relief.

*Adopted Goal: Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.*

The criteria for this goal considered reductions in emissions (VOC and NOx). The US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange performed the strongest for this goal, with the US 33 Southeast Corridor also demonstrating moderate emissions reductions. All other projects showed a relatively negligible difference in emissions reduction.

*Adopted Goal: Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.*

The criteria for this goal considered reduction in regional vehicle-miles traveled. The US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange and US 33 Southeast Corridor projects showed the greatest reduction of vehicle-miles traveled under 2050 anticipated conditions. All other projects exhibited a small increase in vehicle-miles traveled.

*Adopted Goal: Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.*

The criteria for this goal included the number of communities being served by the project, consideration for collaboration with regards to project development and funding the project, new development in the area and whether any phase of the project was already constructed or under construction. The I-70/I-71 Phase 2D and 3 projects scored better than the rest due to anticipated new development and existing constructed phases of the overall Innerbelt improvements. Next came the US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange, also due to new development and the history of collaboration in project planning not only at this location but along the longer US 33 corridor.

*Adopted Goal: Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people.*

The criteria for this goal considered the safety/crash ranking analysis, pavement and bridge condition, and Environmental Justice (EJ) populations served. The US 23 Corridor Improvements



ranked highest for safety and pavement and bridge condition improvements. It is followed by the I-70/I-71 Phase 2D and 3 projects and the US 33 Southeast Corridor project.

**Adopted Goal: Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life.**

The criteria for this goal considered which projects serve users going to or coming from higher density areas and multimodal elements of the project, such as facilities for transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The I-70/I-71 Phase 2D and 3 projects scored highest for this goal, owing to their locations in downtown Columbus and bike and pedestrian enhancements. They were followed by the US 33 Southeast Corridor, I-270 & I-71 Interchange, then the US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange and US 23 Corridor Improvements; however, these all scored relatively low compared to the I-70/I-71 projects.

**Comments Received from the Public**

On June 27, MORPC issued a press release requesting comments from the public on this year's TRAC applications. Comments were due by August 12. The table below summarizes the number of comments received.

Application	In Support	Opposed	Total Comments
I-270 & I-71 Interchange (North)	19	0	19
I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D	0	0	0
I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 3	0	0	0
US 33 Southeast Corridor (I-270 to Fairfield County)	40	3	43
US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange	5	0	5
US 23 Corridor Improvements	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>68</b>

Most of the comments received were in support of the US 33 Southeast Corridor project, with residents citing concerns with increased traffic, development, and safety, particularly at the Bixby Road and Rager Road intersections. Many comments desired improvements along US 33 beyond the project area to Carroll or Lancaster, which would also include the Pickerington Road Interchange. Residents who expressed opposition to the project discouraged the widening of the corridor, instead focusing on safety improvements. The I-270 & I-71 Interchange also received notable public support, particularly from the business community near the project area.

**MORPC Staff Ranking Recommendation**

Based on the goal-by-goal evaluation summarized above, the public comments and the phase for which money is being requested, MORPC staff recommends the following priority ranking for the nine TRAC applications requesting funding:

Proposed Resolution T-11-22

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Priority 1 I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D & I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 3

Priority 2: US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange

Priority 3: US 33 Southeast Corridor (I-270 to Fairfield County)

Priority 4: I-270 & I-71 Interchange (North)

Priority 5: US 23 Corridor Improvements

Note that staff considered the Downtown Ramp Up projects the highest priority and would defer to ODOT onto which phase to fund should funding not be available for both projects.

Resolution T-11-22 recommends these rankings.

TE:NG:EL

Attachment: Resolution T-11-22



## RESOLUTION T-11-22

### **“ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR CENTRAL OHIO CANDIDATE PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 2022 FOR TRAC FUNDING”**

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) selects major new projects to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) major new capacity program; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC has requested that each MPO submit its priorities for projects in that MPO's planning area; and

WHEREAS, six projects requesting funding have been submitted to MORPC for acknowledgement prior to their submittal to the TRAC (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, MORPC members and the public were asked to submit comments on the projects; and

WHEREAS, staff provided the Community Advisory, Transportation Advisory and Transportation Policy committees information regarding the applications, including public comments received for staff recommendation; and


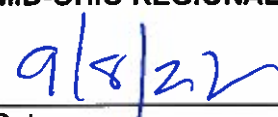
WHEREAS, staff evaluated the projects with regard to the six goals of the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and along with public comments developed the attached priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 29, 2022 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 31, 2022 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the attached listing of projects (Attachment A) be established as the order of priorities for the candidate projects submitted to TRAC from the MORPC transportation planning area for major new capacity program funding.
- Section 2. That the TRAC is strongly discouraged from funding lower priority projects on this list at the expense of higher priority projects.
- Section 3. That it directs MORPC staff to forward these priorities to the TRAC and to present the priorities to the TRAC.

Section 4. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Erik Janas, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared by: Elliott Lewis

Attachments:

- A. Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2022 for TRAC Funding

**Priorities for the 2022 TRAC Major/New Program Candidate Projects**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Tier Request</b>	<b>2022 TRAC Funding Request</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
1	I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D & I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 3	Tier I	\$120 million & \$72 million	\$127.9 million & \$87 million
2	US 33 & Pickerington Road Interchange	Tier I	\$59.5 million	\$64.1 million
3	US 33 Southeast Corridor (I-270 to Fairfield County)	Tier II	\$31 million	\$167 million
4	I-270 & I-71 Interchange (North)	Tier II	\$2 million	\$33.32 million
5	US 23 Corridor Improvements	Tier II	\$19 million	\$157.5 million



# I-70 & I-71 Phase 2D

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project rebuilds the east interchange of I-70 and I-71 by eliminating weaves, consolidating ramps, and adding capacity. It is one phase of the larger Downtown Ramp Up / Columbus Crossroads vision to reconstruct and reconfigure I-70 and I-71 through downtown Columbus.

## 2022 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to move to Tier I status and requests \$3 million for Detailed Design in fiscal year 2023 and \$117 million for Construction in fiscal year 2025.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Name:** FRA-70-14.48  
Project 2D

**Common Name:** I-70 & I-71 Phase 2D

**Sponsor:** ODOT District 6

**ODOT Project ID:** 77370

**MORPC MTP Project:** Yes

**Competitive Advantage Project:**  
Yes

**Total Project Cost:** \$127.9 million

**Current TRAC Status:** Tier III —  
Development & Multi-Phase  
Projects

**Requested TRAC Status:** Tier I —  
Construction

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### PLANNING STUDIES

COMPLETE  
1/14/2009

### INTERCHANGE STUDIES

COMPLETE  
1/14/2009

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

COMPLETE  
1/14/2009

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL

COMPLETE  
5/20/2015

### DETAILED DESIGN

In Progress  
4/1/2024 (est.)

### RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

In Progress  
4/1/2024 (est.)

### UTILITY RELOCATION

In Progress

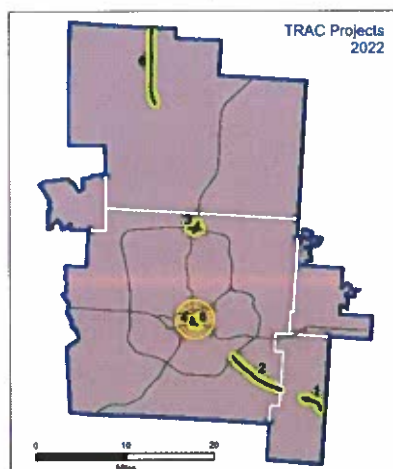
## PROJECT LOCATION

**County:** Franklin

**Municipality:** Columbus

**ODOT District:** District 6

**Routes:** I-70, I-71





# I-70 & I-71 Phase 3

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project would reconstruct I-71 between Main St. and Broad St. The new Lester Dr. (SB) and Elijah Pierce Ave. (NB) urban avenues will be constructed adjacent to I-71. The Town and Oak St. bridge over I-71 will also be replaced. It is part of the larger Downtown Ramp Up / Columbus Crossroads project through downtown Columbus.

## 2022 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to move to Tier I status, and requests \$2 million for detailed design in fiscal year 2023, and requests \$70 million for construction in fiscal year 2025.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Name:** FRA-71-17.14 Project 3

**Common Name:** I-70 & I-71 Phase 3

**Sponsor:** ODOT District 6

**ODOT Project ID:** 77371

**MORPC MTP Project:** Yes

**Competitive Advantage Project:** Yes

**Total Project Cost:** \$87 million

**Current TRAC Status:** Tier III—Development & Multi-Phase Projects

**Requested TRAC Status:** Tier I—Construction

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### PLANNING STUDIES

COMPLETE  
1/14/2009

### INTERCHANGE STUDIES

COMPLETE  
1/14/2009

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

COMPLETE  
1/14/2009

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL

COMPLETE  
5/20/2015

### DETAILED DESIGN

In Progress  
7/1/2024 (est.)

### RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

In Progress  
7/1/2024 (est.)

### UTILITY RELOCATION

In Progress

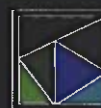
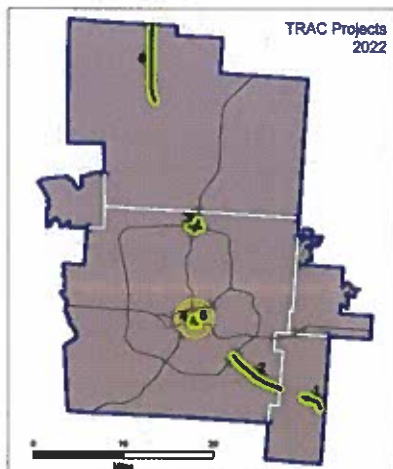
## PROJECT LOCATION

**County:** Franklin

**Municipality:** Columbus

**ODOT District:** District 6

**Routes:** I-70, I-71



# US 33 & Pickerington Rd Interchange

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Replacement of the existing, at-grade intersection of US 33 and Pickerington Road with an interchange facility and connecting service roads. The scope of the project also includes removal of an at-grade rail crossing and four other at-grade access points along US 33.

## 2022 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 5 is requesting to move to Tier I status, and requests \$0.5 million for Detailed Design in fiscal year 2023, \$12 million for Right-of-Way acquisition in fiscal year 2023, and \$47 million for Construction in fiscal year 2025.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Name:** FAI US 33 2.64

**Common Name:** US 33  
Pickerington Rd Interchange

**Sponsor:** ODOT District 5

**ODOT Project ID:** 77555

**MORPC MTP Project:** Yes

**Competitive Advantage Project:**  
Yes

**Total Project Cost:** \$64.10 million

**Current TRAC Status:** Tier II—  
Development

**Requested TRAC Status:** Tier I—  
Construction

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### PLANNING STUDIES

COMPLETE  
3/26/2021

### INTERCHANGE STUDIES

COMPLETE  
8/15/2021

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

In Progress  
12/1/2022 (est.)

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL

In Progress  
10/1/2022 (est.)

### DETAILED DESIGN

Not Started  
12/1/2023 (est.)

### RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

In Progress  
12/1/2023 (est.)

### UTILITY RELOCATION

Not Started  
5/1/2024 (est.)

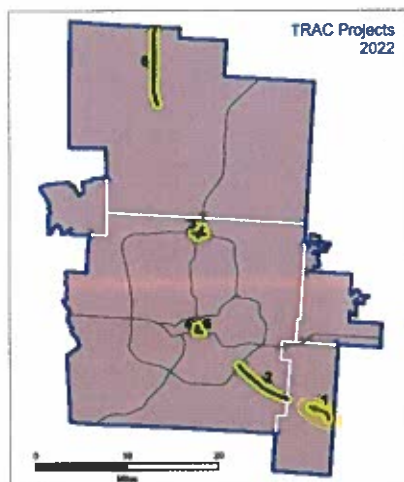
## PROJECT LOCATION

**County:** Fairfield

**Municipality:** Violet Township

**ODOT District:** District 5

**Routes:** US 33, Pickerington Rd



# US 33 Southeast Corridor

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mainline widening of US 33 from four lanes to six lanes between I-270 and the Fairfield County line. Other work includes improvements at the interchange of I-270/US 33 and replacing two existing, at-grade intersections at US 33/Bixby Road and US 33/Rager Road with a grade-separated interchange at Bixby Road. Rager Road will be removed by converting the intersection to two cul-de-sacs on either side of US 33.

## 2022 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting New Project status, and requests \$19 million for Preliminary Engineering in fiscal year 2023, \$6 million for Detailed Design in fiscal year 2025, and \$6 million for Right-of-Way acquisition in fiscal year 2025.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Name:** FRA-33-24.76 to 31.23

**Common Name:** US 33 Southeast Corridor

**Sponsor:** ODOT District 6

**ODOT Project ID:** 76687

**MORPC MTP Project:** Partial

**Competitive Advantage Project:** Yes

**Total Project Cost:** \$167 million

**Current TRAC Status:** Tier II—Development

**Requested TRAC Status:** New Project

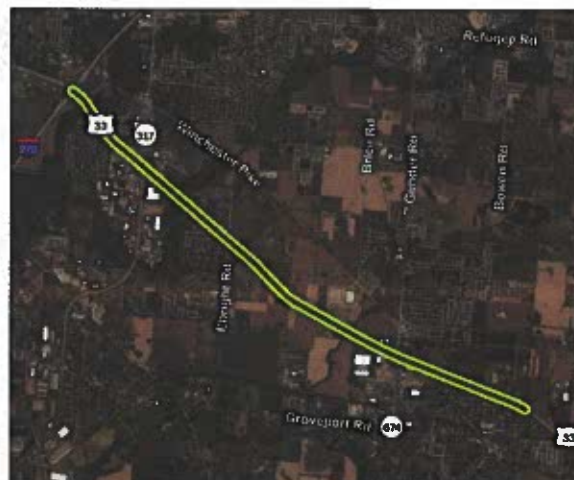
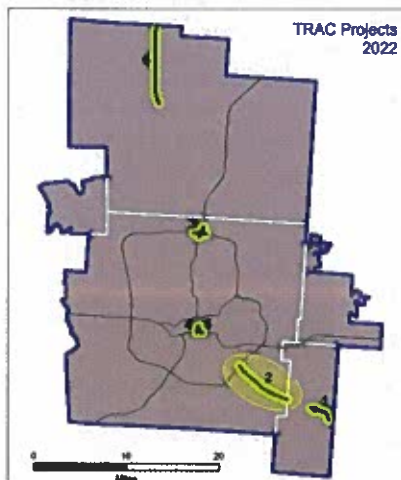
## PROJECT LOCATION

**County:** Franklin

**ODOT District:** District 6

**Municipalities:** Columbus, Groveport, Madison Township, Canal Winchester

**Routes:** US 33



## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### PLANNING STUDIES

COMPLETE  
6/1/2019

### INTERCHANGE STUDIES

Not Started  
6/1/2023 (est.)

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

In Progress  
6/1/2025 (est.)

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL

Not Started  
6/1/2025 (est.)

### DETAILED DESIGN

Not Started  
6/1/2025 (est.)

### RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

Not Started  
6/1/2025 (est.)

### UTILITY RELOCATION

Not Started  
12/1/2026 (est.)





# I-270 & I-71 North Interchange

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project will widen the I-270 EB to I-71 NB ramp to two lanes using the existing structure. Other improvements will include lane modifications, replaced bridge decks, and other bridge rehabilitations.

## 2022 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to enter Tier II status, and requests \$2 million for detailed design in fiscal year 2022.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Name:** FRA-71/270-28.27/25.99A

**Common Name:** I-270 & I-71 North Interchange

**Sponsor:** ODOT District 6

**ODOT Project ID:** 105435

**MORPC MTP Project:** Yes

**Competitive Advantage Project:** Yes

**Total Project Cost:** \$33.32 million

**Current TRAC Status:** New Project

**Requested TRAC Status:** Tier II—Development

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### PLANNING STUDIES

COMPLETE  
9/15/2019

### INTERCHANGE STUDIES

In Progress  
8/19/2022 (est.)

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

COMPLETE  
9/3/2021

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL

Not Started  
7/31/2023 (est.)

### DETAILED DESIGN

In Progress  
3/14/2024 (est.)

### RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

Not Started  
2/1/2025 (est.)

### UTILITY RELOCATION

Not Started  
2/16/2024 (est.)

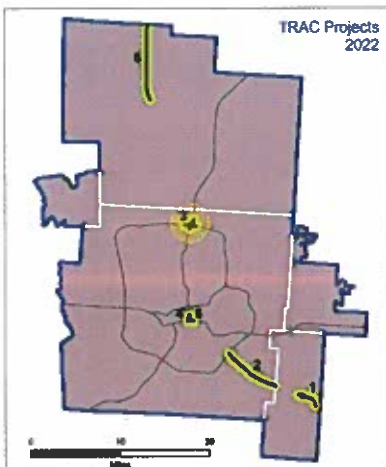
## PROJECT LOCATION

**County:** Franklin

**Municipality:** Columbus

**ODOT District:** District 6

**Routes:** I-270, I-71



# US 23 Corridor Study

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project will construct localized improvements within the existing US 23 corridor. It will eliminate existing signals by constructing interchanges and innovative intersections. The design request is for the construction of an interchange at US 23 and SR 229, and an R-Cut at the Delaware State Park Dr. The project would also include studying solutions for the intersections from Pennsylvania Ave. to Coover Rd.

## 2022 TRAC REQUEST

ODOT District 6 is requesting to remain in Tier II status, and requests \$15 million for Preliminary Engineering in fiscal year 2023, \$3 million for Detailed Design in fiscal year 2024, and \$1 million for Right-of-Way in fiscal year 2025.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Name:** US 23 Corridor Study

**Common Name:** US 23 Corridor Study

**Sponsor:** ODOT District 6

**ODOT Project ID:** 112768

**MORPC MTP Project:** Partial

**Competitive Advantage Project:** Yes

**Total Project Cost:** \$157.5 million

**Current TRAC Status:** Tier II—Development

**Requested TRAC Status:** Tier II—Development

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### PLANNING STUDIES

COMPLETE  
5/1/2022

### INTERCHANGE STUDIES

Not Started  
7/1/2024 (est.)

### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

Not Started  
7/1/2024 (est.)

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEPA APPROVAL

Not Started  
7/1/2024 (est.)

### DETAILED DESIGN

Not Started  
7/1/2025 (est.)

### RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

Not Started  
12/1/2025 (est.)

### UTILITY RELOCATION

Not Started  
4/1/2026 (est.)

## PROJECT LOCATION

**County:** Delaware

**ODOT District:** District 6

**Municipalities:** Delaware, Troy Township, Marlboro Township, Delaware Township

**Routes:** US 23

