



ACEC Ohio Transportation Committee Meeting
March 27, 2020, 10am, Conference Call

Chief Engineer Lloyd MacAdam and Deputy Director Dave Holstein joined over 140 ACEC Ohio members on a conference call Friday, March 27, 2020.

Lloyd shared that under the Governor's "stay at home" order, transportation is an essential business and therefore engineering design is essential. Lloyd shared the current statistics on average daily traffic in Ohio (attached). The ADT is down by 45% over the last 10 days. He explained that the 20% cut in state expenditures for state agencies relates to General Revenue dollars which impacts the aviation and rail programs at ODOT. However, with the decline in ADT there will be a decline in gas/diesel user fee receipts in Ohio. Current budget has a \$1.7 Billion estimate in state revenue, ODOT knows this will be reduced based on current ADT and will hit in three months when the revenue is realized by ODOT which will be mid-June. Anticipating the 2020 shortfall, ODOT has moved two major new construction projects out from 2020 to 2021. (see attached letter) This equates to \$208 million moved out of FY 20, a 37% cut in the program. On a positive note, the ADT for truck traffic is not down as much as ODOT is seeing in car traffic. Lloyd also shared ODOT is preparing for an infrastructure stimulus from the Federal Government, sending a letter from the Governor to the USDOT outlining how ODOT would use stimulus dollars which will include engineering design work. He and Dave Holstein then answered the following questions from members:

1. **Will May and September programmatic proceed on schedule?** May has 67 agreements equating to \$48 million in design and will proceed. (with the May programmatic, ODOT will have let \$120 million in the consultant program year to date) The September programmatic is on schedule to move forward.
2. **Is there any reduction in projects on those programmatics?** See above.
3. **Will there be any delays in authorizing consultant contracts or mods?** The January 2020 programmatic will go to Controlling Board on April 13, 2020, there is a possibility that some projects may need to be deemed as essential and ODOT plans to share those reasons with the Controlling Board.
4. **How is ODOT going to handle District design reviews, we are already experiencing delays in reviews which in turn may cause layoffs at design firms.** Dave Holstein discussed this concern with the District CPA's and they were not aware of any project issues. It was suggested that if a consultant experiences a project specific delay, this should be discussed directly with the District CPA (without any worry of repercussion). The Districts want to resolve any delays. If there is a program issue, consultants are to call Dave Holstein or Lloyd MacAdam.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Ohio

5. **Can ODOT ensure the timely review and payment of invoices? Very important for design firms to survive, especially subconsultants.** ODOT has 40 people working in Central Office and the rest are working from home, there should be no delays in processing invoices. If there is please let Dave know.
6. **What is the plan for public meetings, if needed for a project to keep it moving forward? Virtual? Online?** Yes, virtual public meetings will be held to keep projects moving. ODOT has discussed this issue with the Attorney General's office and have relayed to the Office of Environmental Services and Office of Planning.
7. **I assume from the letter that the safety program and the 100% funding with no local match on safety projects for 2020 are still intact? What about extending the 100% match until April 2021 due to not being able to take traffic counts now?** ODOT will evaluate the 2021 programs when the time is right, a stimulus package might be in place at that time also.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mike DeWine, Governor

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director

1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223
614-466-7170
transportation.ohio.gov

TO: ACEC Ohio and the Ohio Engineering Design Firms

FROM: Lloyd V. MacAdam, P.E., P.S. Chief Engineer, Assistant Director of Transportation Policy

SUBJECT: Statement to Design Industry Partners Regarding COVID 19 Response

DATE: March 25th, 2020

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has heard from many of our partners in the design industry regarding the uncertainty surrounding the current COVID-19/Coronavirus outbreak. As you know, at the direction of Governor DeWine, Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Department of Health issued a “Stay at Home” order on March 22nd 2020, to be effective at 11:59 pm on March 23rd.

Since the beginning, Governor DeWine has maintained that transportation infrastructure is essential to our economy during this time, as well as during the recovery that will surely follow. As a result, Section 9 of the order issued by Dr. Acton provides an exception for Essential Infrastructure. It specifically mentions roads, highways, railroads and public transportation. As such, ODOT remains committed to the timely delivery and completion of the design of our upcoming construction projects.

As you are aware, this situation has resulted in significant impacts to our economy. Many employers have had to make the difficult decision to lay employees off. We we have seen a substantial increase in people working from home. The net effect will be certainly be a significant decrease in revenue generated from the Motor Fuel Tax. As a result yesterday, ODOT made the difficult, yet necessary decision to defer the following projects from our FY 2020 Major New Construction Program to the first two quarters of FY 2021.

- FRA-70/71-12.68/14.86 (Project 4R)
- HAM IR 74 18.01 (Phase 5B)

We will continue to monitor revenue projections and will make adjustments as necessary.

ODOT also remains committed to continuing to develop our upcoming construction program despite the looming revenue reduction given the real possibility of a federal stimulus package which could include money for construction projects. In short, we want to have shovel ready projects waiting for money which may become available to the State DOT's.

Excellence in Government

ODOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services

The health and safety of our employees and that of our industry partners is at this time and always at the forefront of our minds. While ODOT will not issue any specific guidance related to the current COVID 19/Coronavirus outbreak, we encourage the industry to follow their own established protocol and/or visit [Coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) for more information.

As this is a fluid situation, ODOT will continue to monitor developments, take appropriate action and keep our industry partners informed as plans evolve.

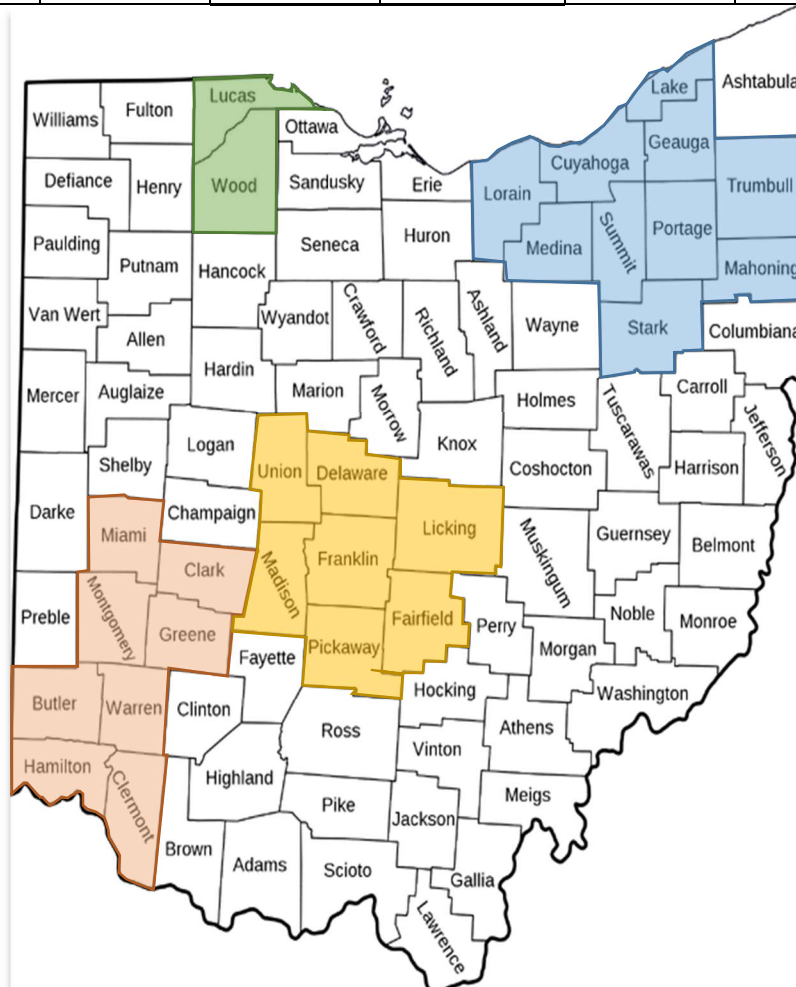
COVID-19 Regional Traffic Analysis

Average for day of week March 2019 vs specific day of week March 2020

	Sunday 3/15/2020	Monday 3/16/2020	Tuesday 3/17/2020	Wednesday 3/18/2020	Thursday 3/19/2020	Friday 3/20/2020	Saturday 3/21/2020
Northeast	20.10%	15.50%	24.20%	28.30%	31.50%	35.50%	47.00%
Northwest	16.60%	10.30%	15.40%	20.60%	25.80%	14.60%	40.20%
Southwest	22.80%	15.90%	24.20%	29.10%	32.90%	32.50%	46.80%
Central	19.70%	12.60%	21.00%	26.60%	30.70%	35.90%	45.40%
Rural	17.60%	7.70%	13.10%	18.80%	23.70%	32.90%	40.80%
Statewide	19.90%	13.60%	21.50%	26.40%	30.30%	33.60%	45.30%

	Sunday 3/22/2020	Monday 3/23/2020	Tuesday 3/24/2020	Wednesday 3/25/2020	Thursday 3/26/2020	Friday 3/27/2020	Saturday 3/28/2020
Northeast	43.60%	36.60%	46.90%	45.80%			
Northwest	41.90%	33.40%	46.90%	45.40%			
Southwest	37.60%	23.90%	48.50%	46.50%			
Central	43.30%	34.00%	47.30%	45.50%			
Rural	43.30%	27.50%	41.20%	41.70%			
Statewide	42.20%	32.00%	46.30%	45.20%			

Northwest
Lucas
Wood
Northeast Ohio
Cuyahoga
Geauga
Lake
Lorain
Mahoning
Medina
Portage
Summit
Stark
Trumbull



Central Ohio
Delaware
Fairfield
Franklin
Licking
Madison
Pickaway
Union
Southwest Ohio
Butler
Clark
Clermont
Greene
Hamilton
Miami
Montgomery
Warren

DataSource: ODOT, Technical Services, Traffic Monitoring, Permanent Count Stations, Average daily count by day of week in March 2019 compared to actual count by specific day in 2020. Approximately 185 stations evaluated in calculating percent change in travel.