



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONSTRUCTION CREWS GIVE HOLIDAY SHOPPERS AN EARLY GIFT**

**Workers complete roadway projects to prepare for easier travel in and around Eastgate retail hub**

(Batavia, Ohio) –There may very well be long lines awaiting holiday shoppers once they enter various retail destinations this holiday shopping season, but the Clermont County Transportation District (CCTID) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) have been working since the spring to make sure traffic going in and around the Eastgate-area retail hub flows as smoothly as possible.

The Clermont County Transportation Improvement District today announced the completion of the Eastgate North Frontage Road Project, as well as the status of construction of several other nearby road projects. Improving access to and from SR 32 and Eastgate Boulevard, particularly for traffic driving around the Eastgate- area retail hub has been the primary objective for that work. Lane realignments and adjustments to signal timing is helping traffic move through the area more smoothly.

Drivers will, however, need to be mindful of new traffic patterns and new access points for entering westbound SR 32 from Eastgate Boulevard. The reconstruction and widening of the Eastgate Boulevard bridge over SR 32 will improve traffic flow along Eastgate Boulevard. This work began in the spring, but crews have completed the work they will do in 2013, and will not resume again until early 2014.

Clermont County Engineer Pat Manger congratulated construction crews for working ahead of schedule in order to meet the traffic demands that holiday shopping will create, and thanked the public for their patience while work continues to improve the busy interchange at I-275 and SR 32, "Our number one priority remains the safety of the traveling public," said Manger.

"Together with the Ohio Department of Transportation, our crews have been working significant hours to make sure the roadway improvements we're making around Eastgate are completed in time for the holiday shopping season," Manger continued. "We know the work we're doing will improve safety and support better traffic flow through the area, but we recognize that there have been a lot of temporary traffic pattern changes that the public is still getting used to. As always, we ask all drivers to please be mindful of construction workers and other nearby drivers, and to reduce speed while passing through work zones."

Being managed by ODOT, the improvements taking place at the I-275/SR 32 interchange represent the most significant change to traffic patterns in the area. Planned improvements include:

- Widening portions of SR 32 from Old SR 74 to Eastgate Square Drive
- Constructing new ramps to provide new access to SR 32 from I-275, as well as new ramps and structures under I-275 that will allow for the new Aicholtz Road Connector
- Improving safety by increasing the spacing between on and off ramps to eliminate weaving traffic

ODOT engineers announced that the current pattern of traffic on Eastgate Boulevard will be in place through the holidays, and construction on Eastgate Boulevard will not resume until after the first of the year. Construction around the heavily-traveled I-275/SR 32 interchange will continue through the winter. Work on the interchange is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2015.

Currently, more than \$80 million is being invested in Clermont County through transportation improvement work that will provide the infrastructure for continued economic development and investment throughout the county.

#### **About the Clermont County Transportation Improvement District**

The Clermont County Transportation Improvement District (CCTID) works across geographic and political lines to improve the quality of life for Clermont County residents by stimulating economic development through regional transportation improvements. The five-member board is made up of representatives from the Clermont County Engineer's Office, the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Milford, and Miami and Union Townships.

The CCTID is currently working on more than a dozen roadway improvements that will increase safety, support better traffic flow through the area, and provide the infrastructure for continued economic development throughout the county. More information about the CCTID and their project work can be found on-line at: [www.GoClermont.org](http://www.GoClermont.org).

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