



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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ODOT USES NEW BARRIER TO STOP ACCIDENTS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Transportation will begin construction this week on two potentially life-saving, cable-style median barriers in Franklin County.

The new barriers will be installed, at a cost of \$650,000, to test the effectiveness of the cable barrier system in preventing crossover accidents in central Ohio. One barrier will be installed along Interstate 270 from Roberts Road to U.S. Route 33, and the other barrier will run along State Route 315 north of Bethel Road.

The cable barrier was first approved for use in Ohio last year on Interstate 75 between Cincinnati and Dayton. Since its installation, there have been no fatalities.

“ODOT employees regret every serious injury and fatality on Ohio’s highways, and we are constantly looking for ways to prevent them,” said ODOT District 6 Deputy Director Jack Marchbanks. “This product looks promising in providing a new way to stop crossover accidents.”

According to Lt. Bob Parkey of the Hilliard Police Department, the device should be effective in preventing deadly crashes. “All of the fatalities from traffic accidents since 1995 in Hilliard and Norwich Township have been caused by crossover accidents,” he said.

The cable median barrier helps “catch” passenger vehicles to prevent them from bouncing back into same direction traffic.

In addition to the primary consideration of safety, the new cable barriers are about four times cheaper than concrete barriers. If the pilot projects in Franklin County prove effective, the new barriers will be far more affordable for taxpayers and could lead to widespread use.

These safety projects are beginning this summer because of funding made available through the recent state gas tax increase. As a result of the increase, ODOT has doubled the amount of money spent on high-crash/congested locations statewide. Funding for the department’s safety program has increased from \$35 million to \$65 million annually.