
NEWS RELEASE



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State Seeks Input on Corridor Crash Problems *Seven Highway Corridors Under Study for Safety Improvements*

(COLUMBUS) --- Three state agencies are seeking the public's input on seven highway corridors with crashes and fatalities above the statewide average. Two of the corridors run through eastern Ohio along State Routes 46 and 193.

A public meeting will be held on August 31 at Youngstown State University in the McKay Auditorium from 5 to 7 p.m. Representatives from the Ohio departments of Transportation, Public Safety and the Ohio State Highway Patrol will give a brief presentation about the new program and recent crash data collected for the corridors. The presentation will be followed by an open house.

"Some of the best suggestions for improving safety come from the people who live and work along our highways," said ODOT Director Gordon Proctor. "These meetings are an opportunity for the public to learn more about the types of crashes occurring in the area and share their personal experiences and ideas."

Ohio's new Corridor Safety Program was initiated by Governor Bob Taft in January 2005. The program uses crash data to identify longer highway corridors with crashes and fatalities above the statewide average. Locations with the highest density of fatal crashes are studied and addressed using a cross-jurisdictional approach that combines engineering, enforcement, motorist education and public input to reduce crashes and save lives.

"Our analysis shows that many fatal and serious injury crashes can be prevented by convincing motorists to wear their seatbelts, drive sober and obey the speed limits," said ODPS Director Kenneth Morckel.

Colonel Paul D. McClellan, superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, said an ambitious goal to significantly reduce traffic crash fatalities has been set. "We believe the motoring public can play an integral role by assisting us with identifying where, when, and why problem areas exist, so we can deploy resources to ensure those dangerous behaviors are appropriately addressed," he said.

The following is general information on the corridors under study in eastern Ohio:

State Route 46 from Columbiana to Ashtabula County

- ▶ Between 1999-2003, there were 15 fatal crashes along the 71-mile corridor
- ▶ The majority of crashes occurred in Niles and west of Youngstown
- ▶ Seat belts were not used in 64 percent of the fatal crashes
- ▶ 60 percent of the fatal crashes involved alcohol
- ▶ 70 percent of the fatal crashes occurred at night

Potential safety solutions include better managing access or driveways along the roadway, better signing and pavement markings and expanding enforcement in high-crash areas.

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State Route 193 from Mahoning to Ashtabula County

- ▶ Between 1999-2003, there were 10 fatal crashes along the 57-mile corridor
- ▶ The majority of crashes occurred in Youngstown and southern Trumbull County
- ▶ Seat belts were not used in 60 percent of the fatal crashes
- ▶ 40 percent of the fatal crashes involved alcohol
- ▶ 53 percent of the fatal crashes involved drivers aged 26 and under

Potential safety solutions include the expansion of enforcement programs to target seatbelt use and young drivers, and additional curve warning signs to better delineate the roadway.

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