

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2012

Expressing Support for the I-270 / US-23 / SR-315 North Central Outerbelt Projects and Urging the Transportation Review Advisory Council to Amend the Draft TRAC Major New Project List to Construct These Projects as Soon as Possible.

WHEREAS, the North Central Outerbelt section of I-270 which includes the interchanges of I-270 at SR-315, US-23 and I-71 was identified as the fourth most congested and high crash location in Ohio according to the 2003 North Central Outerbelt Study; and,

WHEREAS, between 2002 and 2004, 1,300 crashes were documented, with an associated cost to the community of \$26 million; and,

WHEREAS, these roadways are handling as much as sixty eight percent (68%) more traffic in the weave areas than they were designed to handle, resulting in numerous accidents and near-accidents as well as heavy congestion during peak times; and,

WHEREAS, the weave area conditions are exacerbated by the presence of a large number of trucks which require larger gaps between vehicles to change lanes; and,

WHEREAS, I-270 is designated as a Hazardous Cargo Route resulting in a higher percentage of hazardous cargo freight passing through this high crash area since it is not permitted to pass through the inner city area of Columbus; and,

WHEREAS, traffic volumes have increased over twenty percent (20%) since 2001 when the final North Outerbelt Widening Project was completed and the daily traffic volumes are projected to experience a thirty seven percent (37%) increase between 2003 and 2028; and,

WHEREAS, in 2003, average daily traffic volumes varied from 154,000 to 179,000 vehicles per day and they are projected to increase to between 195,000 and 245,000 vehicles per day by 2028; and,

WHEREAS, many of the weave areas had failing levels of service (LOS F) in 2003 and the locations projected to fail more than triple by 2028; and,

WHEREAS, many of the failing locations are at interchange ramps that degrade the mainline level of service by backing traffic out onto the mainline at exit ramps and disrupting mainline traffic flow at entrance ramps; and,

WHEREAS, the projects were initially scheduled to be constructed between 2006 and 2009 and the projects are now estimated to begin construction in the years 2028, 2031, and 2033; and,

WHEREAS, this section of interstate and state and federal routes is vital to serving the businesses and economy of the Region and the State along the entire northern half of the Columbus Region;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of Worthington, County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Council of the City of Worthington views the construction of the North Central Outerbelt Projects along I-270 at US-23 and SR-315 as vital to the safety of the public that travels through this stretch of roadways and does hereby publicly support the projects.

SECTION 2. That the Council of the City of Worthington urges the Transportation Review Advisory Council to consider the critical safety needs in this area as evidenced by the high rates of crashes and congestion, and based on this evidence, amend the Draft TRAC Major New Project List and schedule these projects for construction as soon as possible.

SECTION 3. That the Council of the City of Worthington further urges the Transportation Review Advisory Council to also consider the negative impact on businesses and the economy of Ohio that will result from delays in these projects.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of Council be and hereby is directed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book and forward a duly certified copy to the Transportation Review Advisory Council.

Adopted March 5, 2012

[Signature on File]
President of Council

Attest:

[Signature on File]
Clerk of Council