The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has initiated a study of State Route 161 (SR 161 - also known as Dublin-Granville Road) between Sawmill Road and Olentangy River Road. The purpose of the study is to develop a strategy for improvements that are constructible and fundable. ODOT has several partners in the study effort, including Columbus, Worthington, Perry Township, Franklin County, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC).

The project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of ODOT’s Project Development Process (PDP), which involves preparation of a Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study will describe the purpose of the project and the alternatives considered. The alternatives will be compared based upon impacts and benefits, such as traffic flow, pedestrian and bicycle safety, property impacts, access, and community and environmental impacts. Public involvement on these issues will assist in comparing the alternatives and identifying the Preferred Alternative.

**Project Description**

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**Getting Involved**

A public meeting will be scheduled to get feedback from the community on the alternatives prior to choosing the Preferred Alternative. The meeting is tentatively planned for May or June of 2017. However, your input is always welcome. To provide comments, ask questions, or sign-up for the e-mail list, please contact SR161CorridorStudy@Lawhon-Assoc.com or mail:

SR 161 Corridor Study  
C/O Lawhon & Associates  
1441 King Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43212
Project Update

**Data Collection.** ODOT selected a consulting team, led by Mead & Hunt, to perform the study. Mead & Hunt, along with their teammates Lawhon & Associates and Burgess & Niple, began collecting data. From July through November 2016, the team looked at traffic volumes, land use forecasts and crash data. They investigated current and forecasted usage of the CSX rail line in Linworth. They began to collect information about properties and utilities along SR 161 and take note of businesses, residents, historic properties, parks, and potential environmental issues.

**Public Outreach.** The team developed a plan for public outreach, and formed an Advisory Committee (AC) with members from each jurisdiction, plus neighborhood groups along the corridor. Six AC meetings and one public open house meeting are planned.

AC Meeting #1 was held on August 31, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an introduction to the study, introduce the project team, discuss the AC’s role in the study, and obtain input on issues of concern that should be considered during the study.

AC Meeting #2 was held on November 17, 2016. The group discussed the data collection and analysis completed to date. The committee provided feedback on the transportation needs that should be addressed.

AC Meeting #3 was held on January 12, 2017. This meeting was a workshop where the AC brainstormed alternatives to be further developed by the project team.

AC Meeting #4 was held on March 14, 2017. At this meeting, the group reviewed preliminary concepts developed as a result of the brainstorming session in January.

AC Meeting #5 is scheduled for April 19, 2017. This meeting will provide the committee an opportunity to review the refined set of alternatives that will be presented to the public.

A public open house will be held in May or June of 2017 to present the alternatives to the whole community. Details will be provided when the date gets closer.

AC Meeting #6 is planned for June 2017 to review the public comments and make recommendations on which alternatives to carry forward.

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project being, or have been, carried-out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 11, 2015, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.*