



Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application

BACKGROUND

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), along with partners at the City of Columbus and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), seeks support for an INFRA Grants program application it is preparing to submit to the U.S. Department of Transportation in March 2020. The INFRA Grants program is a discretionary grant program with approximately \$900 million available to support major transportation infrastructure projects nationwide. The application seeks \$40 million in funds to advance key components of the ODOT-led I-70/I-71 Columbus Crossroads improvements, known as Phase 4.

The Columbus Crossroads Project is named for the intersection of I-70 and I-71 in Downtown Columbus. It is a \$1.3 billion project to replace aging infrastructure, alleviate significant congestion, correct serious safety risks, and reconnect neighborhoods separated by the initial interstate construction. ODOT, the City of Columbus, and MORPC have already invested nearly \$380 million in the Columbus Crossroads Project in previously completed phases.

COLUMBUS CROSSROADS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 130,000 vehicles per day, including 17,000 trucks
- Traffic exceeds current design capacity by 50,000 vehicles per day
- Critical link in National Primary Highway Freight System
- 6% of Columbus freeway system, but 25% of all freeway crashes
- In 2015, contained three of Ohio's top 10 freeway crash locations

COLUMBUS CROSSROADS PHASE 4 COMPONENTS:

- Cost approximately: \$310.6 million
- INFRA Request: \$40 million
- Eliminate 95% of lane changes that drivers are currently forced to make
- Improve a national congestion point for freight, commuters, and visitors to the Central Ohio Region
- Enhance connectivity to essential regional services, including emergency medical services at Level I trauma centers at OhioHealth Grant Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital



High Street (Planned)

ODOT has broken the South Innerbelt improvements, also known as Phase 4, into multiple components in an effort to fund the project. The total cost for the Phase 4 components is approximately \$310.6 million — of which ODOT would commit approximately \$174 million, the City of Columbus would commit approximately \$27 million, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission would commit approximately \$7 million. The new gas tax has allowed the partners to already commit approximately \$115 million to portions of Phase 4. But a successful INFRA application is necessary to allow ODOT and the city to leverage INFRA funds to complete the funding for all Phase 4 elements. The project's full benefits will not be possible until all elements are constructed.



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

DETAILS OF PHASE 4 COMPONENTS

Phase 4 will transform Downtown Columbus by rebuilding and replacing deteriorating infrastructure, in addition to constructing new infrastructure necessary for the City of Columbus to complete the urban avenue improvements that will improve safety, reconnect neighborhoods, and provide additional economic development opportunities.

PHASE 4 REBUILDS:

- **Front Street Bridge:** The new bridge will be a gateway for Downtown and the Brewery District, and feature wider sidewalks and greenspace.
- **High Street Bridge:** The rebuilt bridge will be a civic gateway between Downtown, German Village, and the Brewery District, and feature a double-sided “green cap” with significant public green space and enhanced pedestrian accommodations.
- **Third Street Bridge:** The new bridge will be a gateway between Downtown and German Village, with capacity for a commercial cap similar to the I-670 commercial cap in the Short North or a green cap similar to the High Street Bridge’s proposed cap.
- **Fourth Street Bridge:** The new bridge will improve development opportunities on Livingston Avenue, with enhanced connections for pedestrians and bicyclists.

PHASE 4 REPLACES:

- **I-70 eastbound ramp at Front Street:** The new ramp into Downtown Columbus will replace the existing I-70 eastbound ramp at Front Street, and it will carry traffic entering downtown across the Downtown Split and on to Fulton Avenue.

PHASE 4 CONSTRUCTS:

- **Additional Lane:** The new through lane will provide additional capacity for vehicles travelling on I-71.
- **Southside Retaining Wall:** The new retaining wall will extend from the western edge of the I-70/71 trench eastward to the Fourth Street Bridge; and it will enable the City of Columbus to (1) convert Livingston Avenue into a two-way street from Front to Fourth Street, and (2) create approximately 1.5 acres of high-valued land for development between Livingston Avenue and the highway trench.



High Street Bridge (current)



High Street Bridge (planned)

