

## News Release

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### Release: Immediate

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### **SUBJECT: Concord Connector Road Approved by ODOT**

In a recent letter from the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOT) District 12, approval was given for the Connector Road, an east-west connection between Auburn Rd. and Crile Rd., that has been planned along the State Route 44 Corridor.

This Connector Road has received considerable study and review by the Township, the Lake County Engineer, and the Ohio Department of Transportation over a 4-year period along with assistance from State Representative Lorraine Fende and Congressman Steven C. LaTourette. It was agreed to by ODOT as a part of a safety improvement plan with a focus on SR 44-Auburn Rd. and Auburn-Crile Rd. This area of the highway system in Concord Twp. is often ranked within the top 200 worst intersections within the state of Ohio. The Connector Rd. is being designed to reroute traffic that is currently backlogged at the Crile-Auburn Rd. intersection southward to the new Connector Rd. The increase in traffic as a result of commercial development in the Corridor will only worsen and is already a very bad situation. On the western side of the Corridor, Auburn Rd traffic will be able to use the Connector Rd. to relieve congestion at the Auburn-SR 44 intersection.

The Connector Rd. with the Auburn-Crile Rd intersection improvement is Phase 2 of a three phase improvement plan for the overall Corridor. Phase 1 was recently completed with widening of Auburn Road in front of the two new medical facilities: Lake Health's TriPoint Hospital and University Hospital's Concord Health Center. Phase 3 is planned in later years and includes work on SR 44 and the bridge and intersections to I-90.

The next steps for Phase 2 includes further design of the Connector Rd., obtaining buy-in by impacted property owners and obtaining funding. Funding is being sought from Federal, State, local sources and private developers.