

CLEVELAND AVENUE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FRA-CR75-0.97, PID 113718

Visit our Online Open House!

Due to the pandemic, we are not holding a large in-person meeting to discuss the project. However, we still want to hear from you. Please visit our online open house between January 1, 2022 and February 15, 2022 to learn more about the project and leave your questions, suggestions, and comments. You can find the website at:

<https://www.franklincountyengineer.org/public-meetings/>

See page 2 for how you can comment on the project. Comments are requested by February 15, 2022.

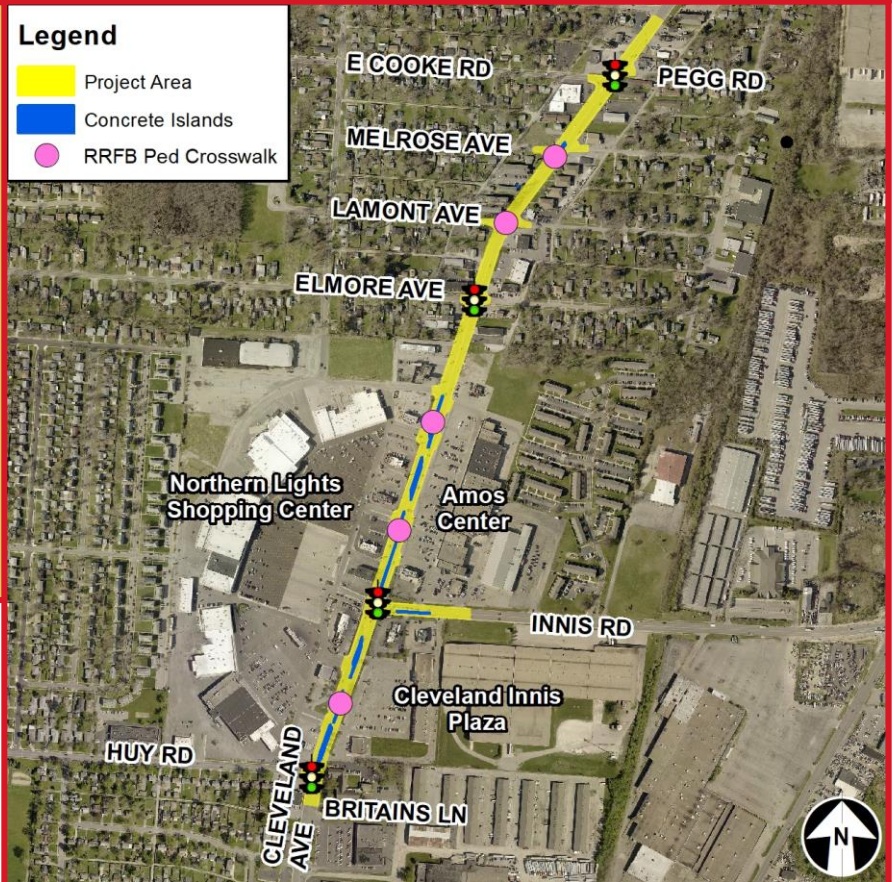
Project Description

The Cleveland Avenue Corridor Improvement Project improves safety by adding five enhanced crosswalks with flashing lights called RRFBs (see other side), raised islands in the center of the road, and curb ramps. The project also limits the number of left turn locations to improve safety for drivers. A two-way left turn lane will be added along Cleveland Ave between Elmore Ave and Melrose Ave. At the Lamont Ave and Melrose Ave intersections, concrete medians prevent left turns onto Cleveland Ave while allowing them onto the side streets. Traffic signals will be upgraded at Huy Rd and Elmore Rd, and timing will be improved for drivers and pedestrians at all intersections. Construction is scheduled from June 2024 and December 2024.



Legend

- Project Area
- Concrete Islands
- RRFB Ped Crosswalk



Why is this project necessary?

Businesses, COTA stops, and community activity create a lot of pedestrian traffic in the Cleveland Avenue area. These pedestrians need safe crossing locations. In the past, there have been more pedestrian crashes here than in other nearby areas. From 2016-2018, 14 crashes involved pedestrians, including 2 who were killed. From 2016-2018, there were 111 rear end crashes and 120 left turn crashes. This project also limits the number of left turn locations to make driving through the area safer.

What will traffic be like during construction?

Cleveland Avenue will remain open for drivers, pedestrians, and COTA users during construction. Some lanes will be closed at times so the improvements can be built. Driveways will stay open during construction.

Environmental Impacts of the Project

No impacts to cultural resources, wetlands, waterways, or habitats of protected species are expected.

During construction, there will be some noise from construction equipment. There should be no permanent increase in noise. Traffic delays and emissions will not increase as a result of this project.

What do you think?

All comments must be received by January 30, 2022. There are a few ways for you to leave us comments. You can:

- Go to the online open house at: <https://www.franklincountyengineer.org/public-meetings/>
- Call 614-525-3021
- Return the comment form you received in the mail by email to bfoster@franklincountyengineer.org or by mail to:

Bradley W. Foster, PE, PS
Highway Design Engineer
Franklin County
970 Dublin Rd
Columbus, OH 43215

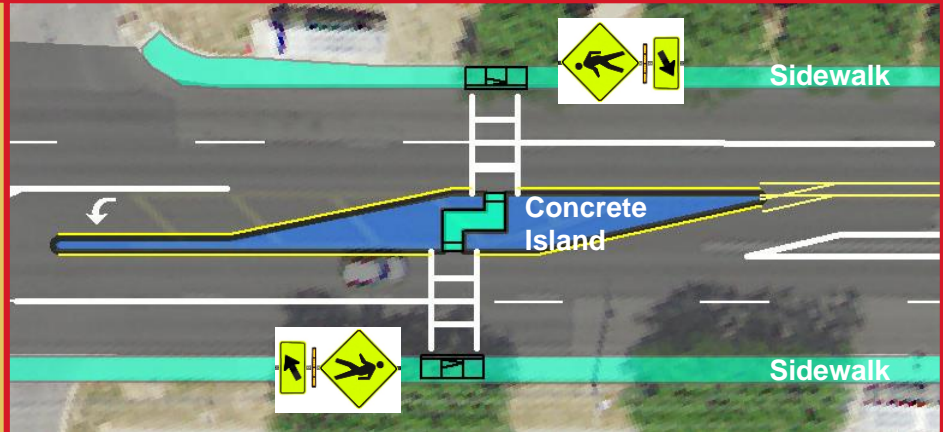
Will property be acquired?

Property may be permanently acquired and temporary right-of-way will be acquired. Temporary right-of-way will be needed during construction to perform work on the properties which can include driveway reconstruction and grading. The temporary easements will end once the County Engineer has certified the project as complete.

Right-of-way acquisition will be done according to all state and federal laws, including the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Act (the Uniform Act). The Uniform Act and other laws establish the process for a government agency to acquire property:

1. A fair market value will be determined for the portion of each property needed
2. A written offer will be presented to the owner
3. When the offer has been accepted by both parties, a closing phase occurs where the property is bought.

Overall, the process will likely occur in 2022-2023. If you would like to discuss your specific property, please contact Bradley Foster at 614-525-3021, through the comment form, or at: bfoster@franklincountyengineer.org.



What is an RRFB?

A Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) is a set of flashing lights that are turned on by a pushbutton to warn drivers to look for crossing pedestrians. When walking, press the button near the crosswalk, wait for traffic to stop, then cross the road. See the pictures of RRFBs at a midblock crossing above and to the right.



The environmental review, consultation and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated 12/14/2020, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.