NELSONVILLE BYPASS: FACT SHEET

PROJECT INFO
The $160 million U.S. Route 33 Nelsonville Bypass is a three-phase, 8.5 mile new construction of four lane highway through Athens and Hocking County. A large portion of the bypass bisects Wayne National Forest, Ohio’s only National Forest. The new alignment consists of two major interchanges into the historic town of Nelsonville. Phase II, the western portion of the bypass, has been open since October 2012. Phase I and III will open October 1, 2013.

PHASE I and II
Contractor: Kokosing Construction Co., Westerville, Ohio
Investment: Phase I $23 Million – Phase II $45.2 Million
Start Date: Phase I October 2007 – Phase II October 13, 2009
End Date: Phase I July 2009 – Phase II October 2012
Summary: Phase I and II includes 5.0 miles of new 4 lane highway. Phase I and II also included the construction of the west side interchange. Total contract for both phases $67.37 million. Phase I began October 2007 and Phase II on Oct. 13, 2009. While Phase I was under construction District 10 was finalizing phase II and III.

PHASE III
Contractor: Beaver Excavating, Canton, Ohio
Investment: $92.2 Million
Start Date: October 13, 2009
End Date: October 2013
Summary: Phase III begins on the east side of Nelsonville and includes construction of 3.87 miles of four-lane highway. Also included in Phase III is the construction of the U.S. 33/SR 78 /SR 691 interchange. The project will reroute SR 78 1.63 miles through the Happy Hollow

The contractors and ODOT worked closely with the Wayne National Forest to incorporate several elements to protect motorists and wildlife in the area, including;
- 8 ft. tall wildlife fencing placed along the entire 8.5 mile corridor with 16 jump out locations
- 12,046 ft. of snake fencing
- Four wildlife culverts for safe passage by animals
- Two amphibian crosses
- Seeding more than 200 acres of native grass
- The development of 7.5 acres of replacement wetlands
- A box culvert which connects to Wayne National Forest’s popular ATV trail
- High-mast lighting for bats
- Extensive grouting of nearly 500,000 cubic yards of abandoned underground mines

U.S. ROUTE 33 HISTORY AND INFO
U.S. 33 is a major route extending from the southeast corner of Michigan to Richmond, Virginia. U.S. 33 carries over 73,000 vehicles per day, with 1,700 being trucks, in some stretches between Columbus, Ohio and Charleston, West Virginia, making it the eighth busiest truck route in Ohio. U.S. 33 through Nelsonville – where it currently narrows from a four lane highway to a two lane local road – is heavily congested, with a history of serious injury crashes.
The Nelsonville Bypass is the last piece in creating a limited-access corridor between Columbus, Ohio and Charleston, West Virginia. Since the 1980’s, more than $330 million has been spent to upgrade the US 33 Corridor. Major Ohio cities along the U.S. 33 Corridor include: Dublin, Columbus, Canal Winchester, Lancaster, Logan, Athens, and Pomeroy. Major Appalachian industries along U.S. 33 include coal, lumber, utilities, transportation, construction, healthcare, tourism and manufacturing. U.S. 33 is a major freight route as it connects the Ohio River ports located in Appalachia to the Columbus International Airport and the multimodal Rickenbacker International Cargo Airport.

SE Ohio is known for its historic towns, outdoor recreation and unique shopping and attractions. U.S. Route 33 is the gateway to experiencing SE Ohio. The new bypass is safer, faster and allows for easier access to everything the area has to offer.

SAFER
- The bypass relieves congestion and removes the bottleneck which allows for safer travel on U.S. 33.
- Traffic volumes are increasing. Specifically, there has been a 21 percent increase in truck traffic on U.S. 33 through Nelsonville during the years from 2009 to 2012.
- From 2010 to 2012, there were 218 total crashes on U.S. Route 33 through Nelsonville. That’s nearly a 20 percent increase from 184 in the years 2006 thru 2008.
- More alarming, from 2010 through 2012 (50) injury crashes increased by 47 percent when compared to the years 2006 through 2008 (34).

FASTER
- Using U.S. Route 33 will cut nearly 50 miles off your trip from Columbus to Charleston when compared to traveling I-70 and I-77.
- It is estimated that the travel time between Columbus and Athens will be reduced by 20 minutes or more.

EASIER
- U.S. Route 33 is a gateway to southeast Ohio and major transportation investments over the years have made access to the area easier and have enhanced the flow of commerce to and from southeast Ohio.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS AND STATS
- Including embankment and earthwork, more than 26.6 million cubic yards of dirt was moved on the project – *that’s equivalent to filling up the Empire State Building with dirt nearly 20 times*
- 207,215 square yards of concrete pavement – *that’s enough concrete to pave 55 football fields*
- 150,230 square yards of asphalt pavement – *that’s enough asphalt to pave 41 football fields*
- 18 bridges including two large box culverts