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State Route (SR) 21 and Lake Avenue Intersection Improvements Project

Summary of Comments and Responses

The following comments were received as part of the public involvement activities for the proposed SR 21 and Lake Avenue Intersection Improvements Project, which involves construction of a multi-lane roundabout at the intersection of SR 21/Lake Avenue and a roundabout at the intersection of 1st Street/Lake Avenue in the City of Massillon, Stark County, Ohio. As part of the project development, a traffic study was completed to evaluate five preliminary alternatives for improving traffic conditions and safety at these closely spaced intersections. Based on the results of the traffic analysis and review of public feedback, Alternative 2 was selected as the recommended preferred alternative.

An open house public meeting was held on June 23, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Massillon Recreation Center (Community Rooms A and B) to display the recommended preferred alternative and collect public input. The public meeting began with a brief presentation with an opportunity to ask questions, followed by an open house. Materials provided at the open house public meeting included a project fact sheet, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) brochure, a roundabout fact sheet, “When ODOT Needs Your Property” brochure, and a comment sheet. Additionally, the proposed design exhibit, project rendering, and a video simulation were on display for public review. Project information, including a recording of the presentation, exhibits, and handouts from the meeting were also made available on the dedicated project website hosted by American Structurepoint: (<https://www.structurepointpublic.com/sr21andlakeaveintersectionimprovements>).

The City of Massillon received in-person comments at the public meeting, by mail, email, and through the project website. A total of 17 comments were received. Key concerns raised included:

- Motorist safety when navigating the multi-lane roundabout at SR 21/Lake Avenue
- Access to local businesses and private properties during construction
- Proposed safety countermeasures for the SR 21/Lake Avenue intersection

These topics are addressed in the responses below. Responses to all comments will be provided to all individuals who provided their contact information and will also be available on the dedicated project website.

Nature of Comment	Comment	Response
Project Development	Has the project considered widening the roads rather than installing roundabouts to reduce congestion?	Yes, as part of the traffic study, several alternatives evaluated widening Lake Avenue to provide additional turn lanes at the intersections of SR 21/Lake Avenue and 1st Street/Lake Avenue. These alternatives were dismissed because the analysis showed that maintaining signal control at the intersections with the proposed turn lanes would provide some improvement but would not achieve acceptable traffic operations during peak hours.
Project Development	Why was Alternative #5 dismissed during project development?	Alternative #5 was dismissed because it offered less overall benefit than the other studied alternatives and required significant widening of Lake Avenue to the West. The roundabout at Lake Avenue and 1st Street would provide a significant safety improvement; however, retaining a widened signalized intersection at Lake Avenue and SR 21 would provide only minimal safety benefit.
Project Development	Rather than constructing a roundabout at the intersection of SR 21 and Lake Avenue, has the project considered adding dedicated right-turn-only lanes for traffic turning from Lake Avenue onto northbound SR 21 and from northbound SR 21 onto eastbound Lake Avenue?	Yes, the addition of turn lanes was analyzed but ultimately dismissed because it did not provide acceptable levels of service or adequately reduce queue lengths between the intersections.
Project Design	Will advance warning signs and other countermeasures be installed along SR 21 to alert drivers as they approach the proposed roundabout?	It is anticipated that additional advanced warning features, including approach signage and flashing signals, will be implemented and further evaluated as the project progresses.
Project Design	Will rumble strips be installed on SR 21 to warn drivers as they approach the roundabout?	Rumble strips are being evaluated on SR 21 along with several other speed control countermeasures. It is unlikely rumble strips will be installed initially but vehicle speeds will be monitored, and they will be added if needed.
Project Design	Will McCadden Avenue be closed at its intersection with 1 st Street to discourage cut through traffic?	McCadden Avenue will remain open at its intersection with 1st Street. Operations on Lake are expected to improve after this project so cut through traffic on McCadden Avenue is expected to be reduced.
Project Design	What measures will be implemented to reduce driver confusion when navigating the two closely spaced roundabouts?	Driver confusion will be reduced through clear, consistent signing, pavement markings, advance lane-assignment guidance, and intuitive roadway geometry. Lane assignments and transitions will minimize weaving and last-minute lane changes between the roundabouts. Adequate lighting and clear sight lines will improve visibility, while public outreach before construction will help drivers become familiar with the new traffic pattern.
Project Design	The project video simulation only shows two semi-trucks navigating the proposed roundabout. How many semi-trucks currently travel through the SR 21/Lake Avenue intersection?	As part of the traffic study, turning movement counts were collected at the intersection of SR 21/Lake Avenue on Tuesday, April 18, 2025, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Based on the analysis, it is estimated that approximately 155 semi-trucks and other large vehicles travel through the SR 21/Lake Avenue intersection daily.

Project Design	How will the proposed roundabout at SR 21/Lake Avenue affect semi-trucks and other large vehicles?	The proposed multi-lane roundabout at the SR 21/Lake Avenue intersection is designed to accommodate the turning movements of large vehicles through the use of a mountable truck apron.
Project Design	I own the property at 134-136 Lake Avenue NE. Currently, we can exit and enter our driveway in either direction when traveling on Lake Avenue. Will the proposed double roundabout restrict our driveway access so that we can only exit westbound and enter eastbound?	The roundabout splitter island ends before the driveway for this property. The driveway will continue to have full access for left and right turn exits and entries.
Project Design	How will the businesses on Lake Avenue and 1 st Street be affected by the proposed roundabouts?	Access to all businesses within the project corridor will be maintained throughout construction. As part of the project, the entrance and/or exit driveways for the Marathon Gas Station, Hi-Way Tire, and the Towpath Trail Lake Avenue Trailhead parking lot will be reconstructed. Additionally, Massillon Tax Service (23 Lake Avenue) will be relocated. Detailed maintenance-of-traffic plans will be developed and shared with the public before construction begins.
Project Design	How will the proposed roundabouts affect residents living on Meiner Court and McCadden Avenue?	Property acquisition will be required at the corner of Lake Avenue and 1st Street; however, no other residential properties are anticipated to be impacted along these streets. During construction, access to adjacent streets and properties will be maintained so residents can continue to access their homes.
Traffic	How will the posted speed limit and the “No Through Trucks” restriction on Lake Avenue be enforced?	Compliance with the posted speed limit and “No Through Trucks” restriction on Lake Avenue will be enforced by the Massillon Police Department through the departments normal traffic enforcement duties.
Traffic	Will the proposed roundabout at the SR 21/Lake Avenue intersection result in increased congestion or slower traffic flow?	The proposed multi-lane roundabout at the intersection of SR 21/Lake Avenue is expected to increase traffic flow and reduce congestion.
Construction	Is there an estimated timeline for when affected property owners can expect to receive temporary access/easement agreements?	Property acquisition is anticipated to begin in Fall 2026 and be complete by the end of 2027.
Construction	Will residential driveways be accessible at all times during construction? If there are temporary closures to residential driveways, how much advance notice will homeowners receive?	Access to residential driveways will be maintained as much as possible during construction. The contractor will coordinate with individual property owners on specific closures once construction starts. Typically, there is at least 1-2 weeks of notice.
Construction	Should the residents along Lake Avenue expect their sidewalk and driveway apron to be reconstructed as part of the construction?	Residents within the project will have their sidewalk and driveways reconstructed.

Project Support	Great job, looks great.	Thank you for your comment.
Project Concerns	I think the proposed roundabouts are a bad idea for this area.	Thank you for your comment.