



AMERICAN
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Ohio Department of
Transportation



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

STA SR 21/SR 236 12.24/0.00 (PID 122272)

Fact Sheet

Project Study Area



PROJECT COMMENTS

Comments about this project are welcomed and encouraged. Please submit comments via phone, email, or mail to:

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City Engineer

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(330) 830-1722

City of Massillon
151 Lincoln Way East
Massillon, OH 44646

Comments are requested no later than **January 16, 2026**, to be documented in the Public Input Summary Report and will be addressed shortly after the close of the comment period. Please reference "SR 21 and Lake Avenue Intersection Improvements" in emails and in letters.

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 USC 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2020, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.

What are the purpose and goals of the project?

The City is finalizing a traffic study that is evaluating several alternatives to improve traffic flow, as well as motorist and pedestrian safety, at two intersections: SR 21/Lake Avenue and 1st Street/Lake Avenue in the City of Massillon, Stark County, Ohio. The following alternatives were evaluated to best meet the project's purpose and needs, including potential improvements to the two intersections.

Intersection Improvements - Five Alternatives

Alternative 1/No Build: Upgraded traffic signals and maintaining the existing lane configurations at the SR 21/Lake Ave and 1st St/Lake Ave intersections. Signal timings and phasing will be optimized. Construction of a shared use-path and updated crosswalks on the southern side of Lake Ave.

Alternative 2: Multi-lane roundabout at the intersection of SR 21/Lake Ave. and a roundabout at the intersection of 1st St/Lake Ave with two eastbound lanes. Construction of a shared use-path and updated crosswalks on the southern side of Lake Ave.

Alternative 3: Signalized RCUT at the intersection at SR 21/Lake Ave. and a roundabout with two eastbound lanes at the intersection of 1st St/Lake Ave. Construction of a shared use-path and updated crosswalks on the southern side of Lake Ave.

Alternative 4: Upgrade traffic signals and widen Lake Ave. to add additional turn lanes at the intersections of SR 21/Lake Ave and 1st St/Lake Ave. Existing lanes to remain the same on SR 21. Construction of a shared use-path and updated crosswalks on the southern side of Lake Ave.

Alternative 5: Widen Lake Ave. to add additional turn lanes and an upgraded traffic signal at the intersection or SR 21/ Lake Ave. Hybrid roundabout with two eastbound lanes at the intersection of 1st St/Lake Ave. Existing lanes to remain the same on SR 21. Construction of a shared use-path and updated crosswalks on the southern side of Lake Ave.

Other Proposed Improvements for Project Corridor

All proposed alternatives for the SR 21 and Lake Ave Intersection Improvements project incorporate key recommendations as proposed in the Traffic Analysis Memo. Proposed improvements include the pavement reconstruction and/or resurfacing, traffic calming by reducing lane widths, and enhancing pedestrian facilities. This design aims to improve mobility as well as motorist and pedestrian safety.

PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

December 16,
2025 - January 16,
2026

Open House Public
Meeting/Public
Comment Period

November 2025 -
July 2027
Preliminary and
Detailed Design

August 2026
Environmental
Clearance

August 2027
Right-of-Way
Acquisition Complete

Summer 2027
Utility Relocation

January 2028
Sale of Project

May 2028 - October
2028
Construction

Why is the project needed?

Drivers along the Lake Avenue Corridor at SR 21 and 1st Street often face traffic backups because the intersections are so close together. This congestion has led to frequent rear-end crashes, with stop-and-go traffic and drivers switching lanes adding to the problem.

What type of amenities will be offered?

Details regarding specific amenities will be provided following the selection of the recommended preferred alternative. At this stage, each of the proposed alternatives includes baseline improvements at the project locations. These improvements include the reconstruction of the existing intersections and the installation of a shared-use path to enhance pedestrian access along the corridor.

What is the status of decision-making on this project? Are my comments considered?

Public input is a vital part of this project. The intent of this open house is to provide a project update and to seek your feedback to ensure the best possible decisions are made for our community. While certain aspects of the project are unlikely to change, there are aspects of the project yet to be determined. We welcome your input and encourage you to provide comments.

When will this project start and how long will it last?

This project is tentatively scheduled to start construction in May 2028. Construction duration is expected to last approximately five months, with a tentative end date of October 2028. We do not have utility relocation information yet and will share more details as they become available.

Will the project raise my taxes? Who proposed this project and how is it funded?

The project will not raise your taxes. The City has received \$4.1M from the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS). Additionally, the City will apply for additional federal and state funding to cover the remainder of the project costs and will provide city funds for their match. The concept plan is a traffic and safety initiative for the City and in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). ODOT, as steward of the federal funds, will provide federal oversight.

Why can't these funds be used somewhere else or for something else?

While the City could elect to use its funds elsewhere, the City considers the intersections at SR 21/Lake Avenue and 1st Street/Lake Avenue as a priority for improvement. Additionally, the federal funds on this project cannot be allocated to another Massillon project without approval.

Will SR 21 and/or Lake Ave be closed during construction?

Precise maintenance of traffic plans will be developed later in the design development process. However, the intent is to maintain traffic on Lake Ave, and SR 21, and minimize disruption to the public throughout construction. Updates regarding construction will be posted on the City's website.

Will the project require property acquisition?

The City anticipates work will be needed outside of the existing road right-of-way. Affected property owners will be contacted later to discuss the right-of-way needs, the acquisition process, and property owner rights under the process. The acquisition of property will be done according to all state and federal laws, including the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Act (the Uniform Act). Overall, the process will take several months. 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. Once an agreement is reached, a closing phase occurs where the property is bought.

Will driveway access be limited during this project?

The contractor will maintain access to residential and commercial properties during construction. However, there may be times when construction may occur on driveways and access may be limited. The City will provide additional details prior to construction.

Will my landscaping and/or retaining wall near the road be disturbed?

Yes, if the landscaping/retaining wall is within the road right-of-way or within construction limits it may be impacted. All properties that have impacts identified to their property will be contacted in the coming months to discuss in greater detail. Approval of landscaping or walls within the right-of-way must be permitted by the City ahead of construction.

Who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk/shared-use path?

The sidewalk and shared-use path will be within the City's right-of-way and therefore maintained by the City.

Will the project be ADA-compliant?

All pedestrian facilities within the project work limits will be evaluated and upgraded as needed for ADA compliance.

Will the project affect historic properties?

An evaluation of the corridor for historic resources, as well as the project effect on any identified historic properties, will be undertaken as part of the environmental review of the corridor. At this time, there are no properties within the corridor that are listed on, or known to be eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places.

What if I cannot attend or view the open house?

Materials from this open house public meeting will be made available on the project website (<https://www.structurepointpublic.com/sr21andlakeaveintersectionimprovements>), and hard copies of the design plans will be made available at the City of Massillon Engineer's Office located at 151 Lincoln Way East for those who cannot attend the in-person public meeting. Questions and comments may be submitted no later than January 16, 2025.