



ADAM W. FOWLER, P.E., P.S.
FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER

July 11, 2025

Re: Responses to Comments
Johnstown Rd, I670 and E 17th Ave Roundabout Project
FRA-CR377-0.27 (Project ID 120449)

Dear Interested Party,

The Franklin County Engineer's Office in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) held a public meeting open house on May 13, 2025, seeking input on the proposed roundabout on Johnstown Rd, the I670 EB off-ramp, and East 17th Ave. The proposed improvements will introduce a single-lane 4-legged roundabout with a shared use path and other pedestrian crossing facilities. This project will also include partial driveway reconstruction, drainage improvements, utility relocations, and updated roadway lighting. These improvements are necessary to enhance safety and reduce accident severity at this intersection.

We received several comments during the meeting and during the open comment period. Many comments were in support of the project and agreed that vehicle speeds, traffic congestion, and safety are all issues with the existing condition at the intersection of Johnstown Rd, I670 EB off-ramp, and E 17th Ave. We received comments requesting low cost traffic calming measures occur before construction begins. The project team has reviewed the comments received from the public and project stakeholders and compiled the attached summary of common questions, comments, and concerns received as well as the project team's responses.

The project is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in Summer of 2027 and last approximately 75 days. Permanent right-of-way and temporary right of way (for construction) are expected to be needed for the project. If right-of-way acquisition is necessary from your property, a real estate representative will contact you directly at a later date to discuss the right-of-way needs, the acquisition process, and your rights under that process. Utility relocations are also anticipated and will begin in 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone at 614-525-3021, or by email at mrehfus@franklincountyengineer.org.

Respectfully,

Matthew Rehfus, P.E., S.I.
Highway Design Engineer
Franklin County Engineer's Office
Project Manager

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Public Comments and Team Responses

Question: Will there be anything to calm traffic for the two years until construction starts?

Response: Intersection sight distance will be maintained by regular vegetation clearing until construction. FCEO has requested this of ODOT twice since undertaking the project design. Flashing "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs for E 17th Ave and speed feedback signs on Johnstown Rd will be installed once they are removed from an existing intersection in our inventory. We will notify the Franklin County Sherriff's Office of these changes and note that additional speed enforcement would also be beneficial.

Question: Why not build a signal? The roundabout seems too uncomfortable for frequent drivers to use.

Response: Although roundabouts may be uncomfortable to learn, the payoffs in safety and efficiency are well documented and accepted throughout the roadway design industry. This is especially true for high-speed roadways such as Johnstown Rd where a signal will still leave drivers vulnerable to high-speed collisions if one or more parties neglect the rules of the road. Roundabouts do not give drivers this option and will require them to slow down if they want to navigate the curvature without losing control. Historically, the injury rate for collisions at signals will vary from 10-40% while collisions at roundabouts primarily result in "property damage only" crashes by keeping speeds and the angle of collision low. Signals are typically used for intersections with extremely high volumes, or volumes disparities between approaches that vary throughout the day such that a roundabout would only make queues worse. This intersection was determined to not fall into either of these categories in the preliminary engineering phase which influenced the ultimate roundabout recommendation.