



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2016

**WESTERN & SOUTHERN OPEN FIRST ROUND PLAY IS TODAY;
WARREN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS PROVIDE ROAD UPDATE AS WORLD-RENOWN TENNIS
TOURNAMENT GETS UNDERWAY IN MASON, OHIO**

MASON, OH (August 15, 2016) – Visitors from near and far have begun traveling to the Lindner Family Tennis Center for the Western & Southern Open, and Warren County transportation officials want to be sure they have the latest information about current road construction in southwest Warren County.

Accordingly, Warren County Engineer Neil Tunison provided the following update on active construction projects in southwest Warren County, and the related traffic impacts those projects are having on local roads. Engineer Tunison noted that there will be no lane closures on Interstate 71 in Warren County during the tennis tournament, and while travel-related delays are often common for those traveling to and from the Tennis Center, construction activity should not affect local travel over the next week.

Socialville-Fosters Road Improvements

CURRENT TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

- The bridge on Socialville-Fosters Road over I-71 is currently closed. The detour for the closure is Mason-Montgomery Road to Western Row Road to Columbia Road.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation will put in place full rolling closures on I-71 at Socialville-Fosters Road (approximately between mile markers 22 and 23 on I-71). The 15-minute road closures will happen nightly, beginning at 11:00 p.m., and continue intermittently until 5:00 a.m. The nighttime closures are scheduled to start Sunday, August 21, at 11:00 p.m., and continue through Saturday, August 27, at 5:00 a.m.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Socialville-Fosters Road is being widened from two to five lanes from Innovation Way to Columbia Road, and the bridge over I-71 is being replaced. A new roundabout has been built at Socialville-Fosters Road and Innovation Way, and was opened to traffic in early July.

The project is proceeding on time and on budget, and the bridge over I-71 is expected to open by the end of the year.

Columbia Road Relocation

CURRENT TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

- There are no lane closures on Columbia Road as a result of this project. Traffic was shifted within the project area to allow for underground utility, storm and waterline work to be completed, but the existing number of travel lanes has not changed.

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PROJECT INFORMATION:

The relocation of Columbia Road will take place over two construction seasons. Currently, construction work is focused on the areas outside of the current roadway system, building a new alignment on Columbia Road from north of Catalina drive to Western Row Road. Then, beginning in the spring of 2017, the existing portion of Columbia Road will be realigned to tie into the newly-constructed portion of the roadway.

Kings Island Drive Improvements

CURRENT TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

- There are no full closures or detours in place related to the work on Kings Island Drive; however, there are various lane closures and traffic impacts throughout the project area, primarily from Soak City Drive to the new entrance of Kings Island. Drivers who have not driven this road recently are encouraged to slow down, read the signs and be mindful of other drivers as they move through this area where the traffic patterns have recently changed.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Kings Island Drive is being widened from Western Row Road to the new Kings Island entrance. A left turn lane into Kings Island Drive for southbound traffic will be added. New medians, new curbs and gutters, new traffic signals, overhead signage, decorative lighting and a bike path from Western Row Road to Great Wolf Drive will also be built.

Irwin-Simpson Road Widening

CURRENT TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

- Irwin-Simpson Road between Charleston Park and Butler-Warren Road is currently closed to through traffic, but local residents will have access to this area throughout construction. The detour is Butler-Warren Road to Socialville-Fosters Road to Snider Road, and is marked with detour signage.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Irwin-Simpson Road will be widened to three lanes between Charleston Park and Butler-Warren Road. Drainage improvements will be made, and there will also be a sidewalk built on the north side of the road. Roadway resurfacing and sewer work will also take place along Auburn Place and E & W Plain Drive.

Bethany Road Project

CURRENT TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

- Bethany Road is currently closed from Mason-Montgomery Road to SR 741. This closure will be in place through Friday, September 16, 2016. A detour that uses Mason-Montgomery Road, US 42 and SR 741 is in place and is marked with signage.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Drainage improvements will take place along Bethany Road from Chanticleer Lane to Windemere Way, and the Bethany Road bridge over a tributary of the Little Muddy Creek will be replaced. Drainage improvements will include various elements to help improve the flow and accumulation of water during periods of heavy rain.

A coordinated regional program of improvements to improve safety and ease congestion

The above transportation improvements are all part of a coordinated regional program of infrastructure improvements that will improve safety, ease congestion and expand access to business and shopping in this area.

The Warren County Transportation Improvement District is working closely with the City of Mason, Deerfield Township, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and other regional transportation agencies to upgrade the infrastructure of local roads to support increased travel to a growing number of industry-leading businesses and world-class tourism destinations.

More info about this work can be found at ImagineWesternRow.com, and on Facebook and Twitter at <https://www.facebook.com/imaginewesternrow/> and <https://twitter.com/WesternRow71>.

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