

# THE POINT IMPROVEMENTS

*April 2023*

## Project Background

“The Point” intersection is located at the location where US 36 and SR 37 converge on the east side of the City, immediately west of the Norfolk Southern Railroad overpass. The capacity of the intersection is limited by the roadway under the railroad bridge having only one lane in each direction compared to two lanes in each direction on both sides of the bridge. On average, 25,000 vehicles a day pass below the bridge, with traffic models projecting that number to increase to almost 40,000 vehicles a day by 2040. Traffic congestion and lengthy backups are routine during morning and afternoon peak-hour traffic conditions. In 2009 the City reconfigured the intersection slightly, relocating the signal further west on US 36 and realigning SR 37 to the new location. The improvement provided immediate relief to westbound traffic congestion and delay; however, traffic modelling showed that increasing eastbound traffic would cause congestion within seven to ten years.

## Improvements

The project will relieve congestion and increase safety along US 36 and SR 37 by increasing the number of lanes beneath the Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge, thus eliminating the notorious merge of approaching westbound traffic. However, the project is more extensive than only a railroad bridge replacement. A summary of the improvements is below:

- Replace the railroad bridge with a longer span to accommodate more lanes and multi-use paths beneath the bridge. To maintain rail traffic during construction, a temporary bridge will be constructed and used while the new bridge is being built.
- Dual approach lanes at the traffic signal west of the bridge on both US 36 and SR 37 to allow more traffic through the signal on each green light
- Modifications to driveways along 36/37 east of the bridge to reduce the likelihood of accidents.
- Shared use path that extends east to the SR 521 intersection, along the south side of 36/37. Sidewalk along the north side of 36/37 that extends east to Bowtown Road.
- Bowtown Road intersection improvements.
- Intersection improvements at US 36 and SR 521 including additional turn lanes. Improvements will extend up SR 521 to Bowtown Road.
- Associated improvements such as water mains, storm sewers, street lighting, and landscaping.



*Rendering of proposed improvements, looking west*

## Project Budget & Status

The Ohio Department of Transportation has awarded a construction contract to Shelly & Sands and will manage construction of the project. The overall construction timeframe will be nearly 2.5 years, with a completion date in Fall 2025.

Phase	Year	Cost
Study & Design	2017-2020	\$3,840,000
Property Acquisition	2020-2022	\$2,260,000
Construction <sup>1</sup>	2023-2025	\$38,260,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$44,360,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>Construction phase costs includes the main construction contract, direct railroad construction costs, and construction inspection.

## Project Funding

Funding Source	Amount
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission	\$20,470,000
State TRAC Program	\$12,700,000
State Safety Program	\$3,150,000
Federal Community Projects Grant	\$2,000,000
State Urban Resurfacing	\$430,000
Local Funding	\$5,610,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,360,000</b>

## Traffic Impacts

Specific impacts to traffic will be announced in advance as construction progresses. In general, impacts to traffic will be as follows:

- Two-way traffic on 36/37 will be maintained without flaggers or detours with limited exceptions as follows. Although there is already only one lane of traffic in each direction under the railroad bridge, increased congestion is expected.
- Short-term complete closures of 36/37 at the railroad bridge will take place during demolition and installation of the railroad bridges.
- A 30-day full closure for eastbound Central Avenue traffic at Moore Street with a detour using Lake Street and William Street.
- A 45-day full closure of Central Avenue between East Street and William Street for traffic in both directions. A detour using Lake Street and William Street will be used.
- Short-term turning movement restrictions at the SR521/Mill Run Crossing intersection with partial detours for SR 521 and Mill Run Crossing traffic.
- Short-term access restrictions to East Point Crossing.

## Project Updates

For project updates and reports, visit the [Access Delaware Facebook page](#). You may also contact us by email at [pointproject@delawareohio.net](mailto:pointproject@delawareohio.net) for specific questions. For information regarding other local roadway improvement and transportation projects, visit <https://www.delawareohio.net/government/departments/engineering/access-delaware>