

2021 May PIN Update

Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 74, Ohio's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 transportation budget, into law on March 31, 2021, investing \$8.3 billion over the biennial.

The biennial budget includes:

- \$318 million for highway safety projects.
- \$2.6 billion for other state-maintained roadway improvements.
- \$2.4 billion for local roadway improvements.
- \$74 million in public transit.
- \$116 million for the Public Works Commission, including \$14 million for emergency road-slip repair.
- \$8 million for electric vehicle charging station grants through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Additionally, the biennial budget includes various provisions to enhance and expand services offered by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, requires the completion of classroom or online instruction for driver's training before beginning behind-the-wheel instruction, repurposes closed weigh stations, and creates a school zone around a preschool. With this news, the TRAC process has been restarted and accelerated in Ohio.

Even though Representative Sal Santoro filed House Bill 561 to raise Kentucky's gas tax by 10 cents a gallon, it did not make it out of committee before the legislative session ended on March 30, 2021.

Meanwhile the Federal bill is getting national attention as President Biden's number one initiative: Build Back Better. The American Jobs Plan is an 8-year, \$2.25 trillion proposal that includes significant investments all types of including:

- \$621 billion for transportation infrastructure and resilience;
- \$111 billion for drinking water infrastructure;
- \$100 billion each for power infrastructure, public schools, and broadband; and
- \$35 billion investment to research climate science.

While the Republicans and some Democrats are opposed to the price tag of this measure, negotiations are now starting with a bipartisan committee to resolve concerns about the bill. One large difference is the way that the bill is being proposed to be paid for: by revoking the tax cuts that were passed a few years ago and to raise the corporate tax rate back to 28%. In addition the reintroduction of earmarks has entered the mix. Stay tuned for more updates as progress on this initiative moves forward with a goal of passage by July 4, 2021.