



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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April 7, 2021

Paul Logue, AICP
City Planner
City of Athens
8 East Washington Street
Athens, Ohio 45701

Mr. Logue,

Thank you for your letter regarding the U.S. 33/Johnson Road Project. We appreciate the members of the Athens County Regional Planning Commission for taking time to share their thoughts.

ODOT District 10 does not take lightly the decision to close the Johnson Road connection to U.S. 33. ODOT has tried several different measures at this intersection over the years to improve safety and crashes continue to occur.

One option was to close the median and leave the Johnson Road connection. This does address the most recent crash pattern, but it leaves conflict points in place that have a potential for a severe crash. Given that there have been right turn crashes in the past and traffic volumes continue to grow, we feel this is an opportunity to be proactive. Increased traffic on U.S. 33 has resulted in a reduction in the number and size of gaps between cars. There are fewer opportunities to make a right turn onto U.S. 33, especially during peak times of the day. A right turn crash at a high speed intersection such as this has the potential to be a severe injury crash.

We have completed extensive analysis to evaluate the current system to ensure that it can handle the additional Johnson Road traffic. This analysis was completed prior to the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and while school was in session. Our analysis shows that traffic along the SR 682 corridor will still move acceptably with minor changes to the traffic signals.

I want to again thank the Commission members for providing comments on this project.

Respectfully,

Darla Miller
Deputy Director, ODOT District 10

cc: Jay Edwards, Ohio House District 94
Frank Hoagland, Ohio Senate District 30

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