

Analytics Secured Federal INFRA Funding for Columbus

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) sought funding for a multi-year, multi-phase highway restructuring project. Compelling insights from StreetLight helped secure \$25 million in INFRA funding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Project officials applied for INFRA funding which required a proven freight benefit
- StreetLight truck trip analysis showed benefit for areas both within and beyond central Ohio
- Planners secured \$25 million in funding for Phase 4 of the project.

Mission: Prove Benefits to Truck Movements

Ohio planners were in the second decade of a multiphase transportation restructure, and needed funding for the final phase. Phases 1-3 rebuilt the I-71/I-670 interchange, replaced an I-71 bridge, addressed known storm sewer issues, and resurfaced lanes.

At Phase 4, ODOT sought Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) funding. To win the grant, project officials needed to show a positive impact on freight movements.

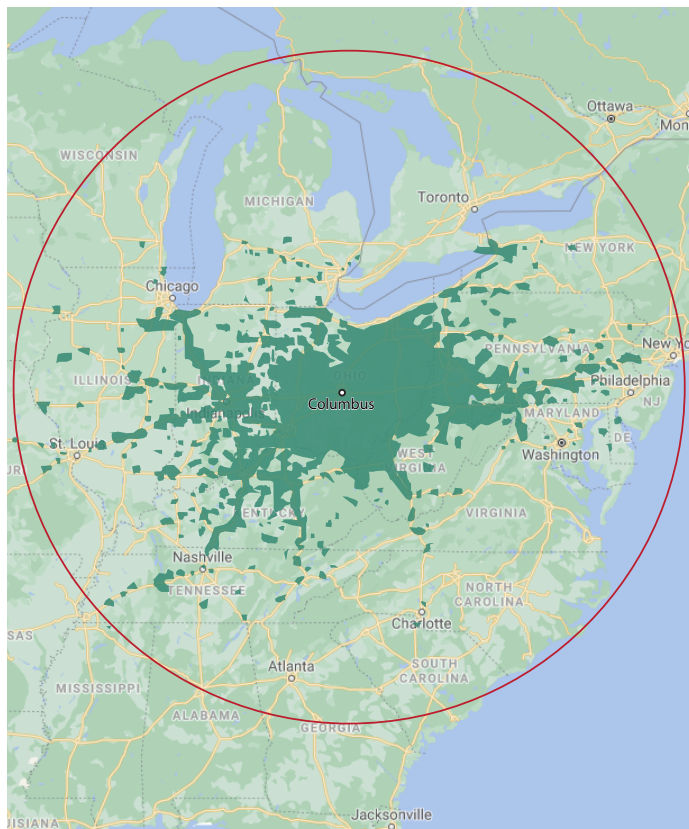
Currently, the I-70/I-71 overlap exceeds its design capacity by 50,000 vehicles per day, and is ranked second worst in freeway travel-time performance in Ohio. It's also one of the most hazardous locations in the state, with a daily load of 145,169 vehicles (18,194 of them trucks) in a zone designed for a capacity of 50,000. Ohio planners were eager to secure funding and prevent delays on this critical, long-term project.

"The data visualization created a light-bulb moment. It helped people see the magnitude of local and national freight moving through this area."

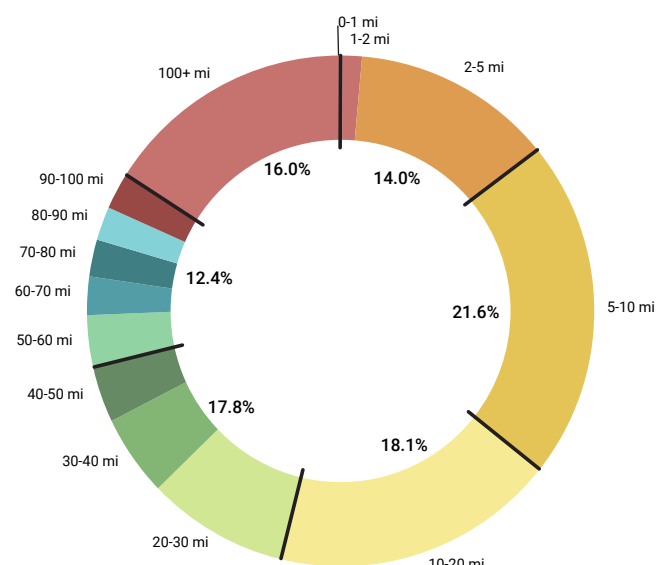
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THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS





Streetlight's O-D Metric shows the starting and ending census blocks of truck movements travelling through the I-70/71 overlap in 2019. Circle indicates approximately 500 miles from project area.



Analysis of commercial vehicle trips revealed a fairly even distribution of trip lengths through the I-70/71 overlap, including trips of 100+ miles.

Analysis: Analyze Local and National Truck Traffic

StreetLight's Origin-Destination Metric isolated truck traffic from personal vehicles, and identified start and end points for those commercial vehicle trips through the highway overlap.

The analysis showed that nearly 30% of truck trips were 50+ miles, with 16% over 100 miles. Planners also captured a compelling visualization of trips that extended 500 miles from the project area.

Officials knew that vast amounts of truck traffic moved daily through the corridor, but the visualizations created a “wow” factor that impressed both Ohio planners and grant officials. It confirmed at a glance the impact on regional and national freight.

Results: Federal Grant Keeps Project Moving

Data visualizations from StreetLight's O-D Metric showed the direct impact of the requested funds in multiple ways, including how those dollars will translate to long-term benefit for safety, and the local and national economy.

The \$25 million awarded in INFRA funding will fuel projects including restructuring a critical highway intersection, adding a lane, replacing three obsolete bridges, and reconnecting neighborhoods bisected by highways.

Analytics and a clear visualization assured grantmakers that federal funding will benefit not only Columbus and central Ohio, but also our national transportation infrastructure.