



I-71 / FIELDS-ERTEL ROAD / MASON-MONTGOMERY ROAD

# INTERCHANGE

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## WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS

When you're behind the wheel, those orange construction barrels may not always be a welcome sight.

But project planners for the I-71 / Fields-Ertel and Mason-Montgomery Road interchange improvement work want you to remember that orange barrels signal progress.

This work will ease congestion, improve safety, and expand access to business and shopping in the Fields-Ertel and Mason-Montgomery Road area.



*Construction at the southbound I-71 exit ramp*



**Noticed some dust flying? The following improvements started during the summer and will be completed in 2014.**

### **Northbound I-71 Exit / Gore Extension & Lane Expansion**

The gore is the triangular area of separation between the freeway and exiting traffic. Ever noticed that white-striped area as you exit? That's the gore.

Expanding the gore and exit lane at the northbound I-71 / Fields-Ertel and Mason-Montgomery Road exit will allow cars to exit I-71 and move onto the expanded off-ramp sooner, and will also create more separation between the freeway and exiting traffic.



### **Southbound I-71 Exit / Additional right turn lane onto Mason-Montgomery Road**

The southbound I-71 exit will be widened to provide additional capacity to its intersection with Mason-Montgomery Road and Escort Drive by adding

an additional right turn lane for traffic turning right onto Mason-Montgomery Road.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for managing construction at the I-71 / Fields-Ertel and Mason-Montgomery

Road interchange. ODOT works to improve safety, enhance travel and advance economic development with all of its highway improvements.



#### **How will construction affect your drive?**

**AdvancingFieldsErtel.com** is home to a lot of information — perhaps most notably for those who drive through the area — up-to-date construction information. Check out our "Construction Updates" page, where traffic advisories from the Ohio Department of transportation are posted, and information about lane closures, detours, or other traffic impacts are noted.

Information about the timing of projects, funding and other program history can also be found on the website.



We are making phased improvements that will address traffic issues in the area. By completing projects in multiple stages, project planners can evaluate how the completion of one project will support upcoming improvements based on real-time driving patterns.

The following improvements have been completed:

### **New lane on northbound Mason-Montgomery Road**

Have you noticed traffic moving more smoothly along Mason-Montgomery Road? That's due in part to the new northbound lane from Fields-Ertel Road to Parkway Drive (we've also made adjustments to the timing of the traffic signals to help traffic move more easily).

This third lane of northbound traffic has helped to ease congestion and will help prepare for future interchange improvements.



### **22 Traffic Signal Improvements**

Upgraded computer controllers within the traffic signals allow signal timing to be coordinated more effectively so that traffic can flow more easily. This project involved twenty-two different signals.

#### **A note about traffic signal improvements:**

Improvements to traffic signal timing will always be a work in progress. Storms that cause a loss of power in the area often throw off some of the adjustments that have been made to get traffic through signals faster. Following a storm, it may take some time to restore the signals back to their preferred settings.

If you experience an unusual delay at a traffic light, please contact us at [info@AdvancingFieldsErtel.com](mailto:info@AdvancingFieldsErtel.com), and let us know where you were and at what time of day your delay took place.



## UPCOMING WORK

### Loop ramp construction will begin in early 2014

Perhaps the most significant change to traffic patterns in the area will come with the construction of the northbound I-71 exit / Loop Ramp Project. The Loop Ramp will relieve congestion at the Fields-Ertel and Mason-Montgomery Road intersection by allowing northbound traffic to by-pass the intersection altogether. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

The improvements being made at the Fields-Ertel and Mason-Montgomery Road interchange are part of a coordinated regional program that also includes infrastructure improvements at the Western Row Road interchange. Studies indicate that the completion of a new interchange at Western Row Road will reduce I-71 southbound off-ramp traffic at Fields-Ertel by 17 percent, and reduce northbound I-71 on-ramp traffic at Fields-Ertel by 24 percent. Plans for an upgraded Western Row Road interchange are underway.



## SPEAK UP!

Public involvement has been an integral component of our planning, and continues to be an important piece of our work going forward.

Please tell us what you think about current and planned improvements.



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