



Ohio Department of Transportation

## ODOT's I-90 Innerbelt Bridge: Building a New Bridge

April 2011

***\*\*Construction of the first new bridge and associated improvements is the largest single contract in Ohio history\*\****

### **How Did We Get Here?**

The Innerbelt Bridge is a vital link into downtown Cleveland. In October 2008, ODOT engineers' restricted traffic on the over 50-year-old bridge after inspections revealed that a number of steel members were aging faster than expected. As part of ODOT's Innerbelt Bridge Safety Plan, after detailed analysis of the structure and \$10 million in subsequent repairs, ODOT safely reopened all lanes and ramps on the bridge in November 2009. During the spring of 2009, ODOT announced plans to construct a new westbound Innerbelt Bridge, utilizing federal transportation stimulus funds. Construction of the new westbound bridge will be followed by construction of a new, similarly designed, eastbound bridge.

### **Industry Leading Best-Value Design-Build Project**

The Department used an industry leading best-value design-build contract in securing construction of the new bridge. Proposals from teams of designers and contractors from around the nation were thoroughly examined by ODOT and City of Cleveland officials to determine whose proposals truly provided the best-value to Ohio citizens. By using the process on the Innerbelt Bridge project, ODOT has already saved approximately \$100 million and reduced project delivery by eight months. Selection of a winning team also included unprecedented public input which allowed Clevelanders to weigh-in on the proposed designs via public meetings and Internet polling.

### **Construction of a Westbound Bridge – The First Piece of the Puzzle**

Construction of the first bridge is the first step in reconstructing the entire Innerbelt Corridor through downtown Cleveland. The multi-billion dollar "Innerbelt Plan" includes such safety improvements as flattening the sharp Innerbelt Curve and other reconstructions.

### **Constructing a New Westbound Bridge**

The Innerbelt Bridge Project will construct a new I-90 westbound bridge. The existing I-90 bridge will remain **open** while the new bridge is constructed. When the new westbound bridge is complete, it will be used to carry both directions of traffic while the old I-90 bridge is demolished and a new I-90 eastbound bridge is built.

### **More than Just a Bridge**

Along with the bridge itself, the project also repairs numerous highway overpasses, improves landscaping, green space and aesthetic appeal of the river valley – just to name a few. Perhaps the most striking visual element, the new bridge will light-up the night sky using environmentally friendly LED lights which are programmable in more than 200 colors.

### **Economic Development Potential**

The project will increase travel efficiency, reduce business costs and create jobs by building safer, more efficient and large capacity structures. This project retains a vital link into downtown Cleveland including jobs, entertainment, restaurants, sporting events and more. The bridge is a necessary link for the movement of goods and services.

### **Improving Connectivity**

The I-90 Innerbelt Bridge carries over 120,000 vehicles each day and is a vital link between downtown Cleveland and Interstates 71, 77, 90 and 490 as well as Interstate-look-alike State Route 176. By relieving congestion, access to the Cleveland Port Authority, Burke Lakefront Airport and Cleveland's AMTRAK station will be improved. Along with improved access to other modes of transportation, access to downtown sports and entertainment venues will also be improved.