

# The \$1.83 billion fix for I-75

More traffic lanes for I-75 and a light-rail commuter line alongside would be built under a recommendation approved Monday. Total projected cost of \$1.83 billion includes just under \$1 billion for the rail line. Planners say this solution, one of several considered, will meet rush-hour demand over a 30-year period. No funding source has yet been identified. The work would be in addition to \$482 million of improvements already planned for I-75 in Hamilton County.

## Next steps

- The recommendation goes to the board of OKI, the regional transportation-planning agency.
- OKI meets on Oct. 9 to consider adopting the recommendations. The agency will then consider the recommendations for inclusion in the long-range regional transportation plan, a step necessary to secure federal funding.
- Construction could be as far off as 10 years as design and funding issues are worked out.

## Rail offers alternative to driving

- The rail line would run from 12th Street in Covington to West Chester, with stops about every mile in most Hamilton County suburbs.
- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority trains would run three minutes apart during rush hour and at five-minute intervals at other times.
- Required: Acquisition of 10 acres, track construction, equipment acquisition, construction of a bridge across the Ohio River and hiring and training a workforce.



## Highway expansion improves traffic flow

- I-75 would be expanded to run four lanes continuously in each direction between the Ohio River and the northern Warren County border. Selected segments in Hamilton County already are four-laned.
- Some especially congested areas, yet to be specified, would get an additional fifth lane in each direction.
- Required: Acquisition of 13 acres, massive construction work causing years of traffic delays.