



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## **Creating Healthy Communities: Making Change Happen at the State Level** Presentation by Jolene Molitoris



TED STRICKLAND, OHIO GOVERNOR

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# Creating Healthy Communities: Making Change Happen at the State Level

Yesterday's Investments



Today's Challenges

Tomorrow's Opportunities



# Creating Healthy Communities: Making Change Happen at the State Level

Over the past 15 years,  
the Ohio Department of  
Transportation  
has invested more than  
\$100 million to improve and  
modernize  
pedestrian and bicycle routes  
across the state

Yesterday's Investments

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Tomorrow's Opportunities



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# Creating Healthy Communities: Making Change Happen at the State Level

Last year, ODOT awarded nearly \$4 million to communities statewide for school crossing signals, sidewalks, educational materials and safe school travel plans through its widely-recognized Safe Routes to School program

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## Results:

Good: Ohio has more than 3,000 miles of designated bike paths used by an estimated 4 million bicycle owners

Bad: fewer than 15% of school trips are made by walking or biking. More than half of all children arrive at school in private automobiles



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## Results:

Good: ODOT's Transportation Enhancement Program directs federal dollars for projects that improve cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of transportation

Bad: Between 2005 and 2007, school safety zones saw more than 1,000 crashes



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# Creating Healthy Communities: Making Change Happen at the State Level

## Assessment:

Yesterday's investments  
in pedestrian and  
bicycle improvements were  
seen as  
“extras”  
without connection to an  
integrated transportation  
system

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## Fewer Miles Driven:

National: 53.2 billion miles less for the first six months of 2008

State: 1.1 billion miles less

Equivalent to 3 ½ days worth of fewer trips being made

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## More Transit Trips Taken:

National: 5% increase for  
April through June 2008

State: 6.7% increase for  
first six months of 2008

Equates to 70.6 million total riders  
COTA: 17.5% increase in April alone

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## Less Gas Consumed:

National: nearly 400 million fewer gallons of gasoline during first quarter of 2008,

State: consumption declined greater in past year than the four prior years combined

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## Assessment:

Ohioans aren't sitting idle  
despite higher gasoline prices

Minds are changing

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## New Vision on Investment:

Governor Strickland mission:  
During tight economic times,  
we must live within our means  
and invest in what truly  
matters

Avoiding the cliché:  
“Build it and they will use it”  
by investing in use plan



# Creating Healthy Communities: Making Change Happen at the State Level

New Vision on Integration:

Prioritize Safety

Emphasize Connectivity

Model the behavior  
we want to see in others and  
in our children

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