

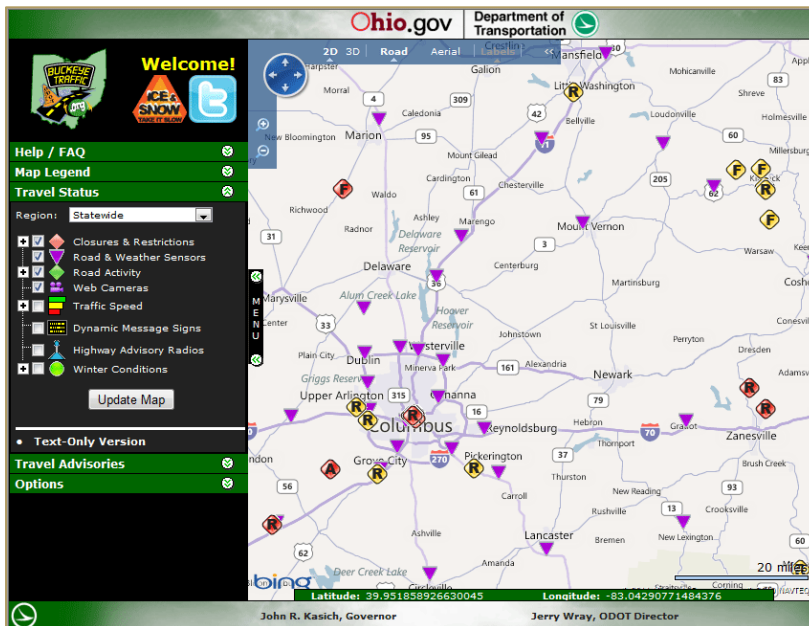


## 2011 ITS Project of the Year Award

The ITS Project of the Year 2011 is:



**Freeway Management System - Traffic Management Center**



The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently expanded and modernized its entire Freeway Management System, operating from a centralized location at ODOT headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. A Statewide Traffic Management Center (TMC) was constructed in October 2010.

ODOT transferred TMC functions for the city of Columbus from its district office

to the statewide system in 2011, adding 65 cameras and 15 message boards to Central Office control. So far in 2011, the new system has installed 46 cameras and 16 message boards in the Cleveland area and six cameras and seven message boards in Akron-Canton. Work to install cameras, boards and highway radios in the Dayton-Springfield area will begin in September 2011, and a freeway service patrol dispatched to offer aid to stranded motorists will begin service in October 2011. The statewide system will take over the TMC system from the ODOT district office over the Cincinnati/ northern Kentucky area and begin bids for installing equipment in the Toledo area in 2012.

The statewide TMC contains nine traffic workstations, each one dedicated to a major metro area in the state and each equipped with six 22-inch monitors. The highways around the metro areas are equipped with high-tech sensory and communication devices, including speed sensors, weather sensors and cameras. Images and data from these cameras and sensors is instantly transmitted to the centralized TMC, then instantly relayed to message boards and 'highway advisory radios' to alert motorists and

authorities of what conditions lay ahead. This information is all streamed live via the department's premier traffic website, [www.BuckeyeTraffic.org](http://www.BuckeyeTraffic.org), to place consistent, accurate and up-to-the-minute traffic information at the fingertips of Ohioans.

The goals of this centralized TMC include managing congestion and reducing the incidents of secondary crashes and related injuries and roadside fatalities. Providing accurate and timely information to drivers allows them to make decisions to avoid congested areas and accident zones. This not only increases highway safety, it reduces pollution and the estimated economic impact of \$1.76 billion every year on Ohio due to delays in shipping from traffic congestion.

Strategically, the centralized TMC is an effective, consistent and fiscally responsible project for making Ohio transportation more efficient and safe. By 2014, all traffic management will be fused into one comprehensive ODOT-TMC centralized location, and the entire ITS is expected to include 431 roadside cameras; 123 dynamic message boards; 24 highway advisory radios and more than 1,000 traffic sensors, all covering 900 miles of Ohio's metro freeways.

**Project Lead:** Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

**Project Web Site:** <http://www.BuckeyeTraffic.org>

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