



Sign in to cleveland.com »
Not a member? Register Now »

Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

Go

Brought to you by:

DOTCOM DEALS
\$50 Certificates for \$25

- Home
- News
- Business
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Interact
- Jobs
- Autos
- Real Estate
- Classifieds
- Shopping
- Place An Ad



Metro - cleveland.com

Breaking local news for Cleveland and Northeast Ohio

Inside

Metro - cleveland.com »

Browse by category

- 89th Street shooting
- Animals
- Anthony Sowell
- Arts Impact
- Beachwood
- Black History
- Breaking News
- Browns
- Business
- Casinos
- Cavaliers
- Census
- Church Closings
- Cleveland
- Cleveland Clinic
- Cleveland Museum of Art
- Cleveland Water Division
- Columns
- County in Crisis
- Crime
- Cuyahoga County government
- Cuyahoga County Insider
- Cuyahoga County Reform
- Cuyahoga River
- Death
- Demjanjuk
- Detroit-Shoreway
- Dew Tour
- East 12th shooting
- Editor's Picks
- Editors Picks: Must-See Stories
- Education
- Election
- Election results
- Entertainment
- Environment
- Essa Murder Trial
- Father's Day
- FBI raids Cuyahoga County
- Feast of the Assumption
- Fire
- Floods
- Foreclosure
- Fourth of July
- Fugitive of the week
- FYI
- Gateway
- Gerald McFaul

Cleveland, Detroit-Shoreway, Editors Picks: Must-See Stories, Open, Real Time News, ohio legislature »

West Shoreway project gets a boost from Ohio lawmakers

By Aaron Marshall, The Plain Dealer

January 25, 2010, 6:00AM



Thomas Ondrey, The Plain Dealer

Changes proposed for the West Shoreway would make it friendlier for pedestrians. Legislation that would drop the speed limit from 50 mph to 35 mph, a key part of the plan, passed the Ohio House last week. In this picture, westbound traffic heads toward Lakewood as a pedestrian hustles by.

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A long-awaited \$60 million road project designed to transform the fast lanes of the West Shoreway into a tree-lined boulevard got a key assist from state lawmakers last week.

Rep. Michael Skindell, a Lakewood Democrat, got language slipped into an unrelated bill that would drop the speed limit on a stretch of the West Shoreway, from 50 mph to 35. The bill passed the Ohio House Wednesday and now moves to the Senate.

However, drivers aren't likely to see the speed limit drop until about 2013, no matter when state lawmakers end up getting the provision enacted.

The language shepherded by Skindell would clear a hurdle for the project, which was first rolled out in the late 1990s and nearly died in 2008.

The Ohio Department of Transportation "needs to have that legal authority so they can seek federal authorization for the project at the end of the spring," said Cleveland City Councilman Matt Zone, whose district includes about 80 percent of the planned multiyear project. "But that doesn't mean that people will actually see the speed limit drop now."

A 2.25-mile stretch of the West Shoreway, running from West 25th Street past Edgewater Park, would eventually be reduced to 35 mph.

The idea behind the project is to make road, tunnel and intersection improvements between downtown and West Boulevard and to make Edgewater Park and the lakefront more accessible from West Side neighborhoods now cut off.

"We want to turn this into a boulevard instead of a highway," said Skindell. "There's a lot of new housing up that way, and we are trying to do everything we can to increase access."

Valarie McCall, chief of government affairs for the city, said in an e-mail that the

Metro - cleveland.com headlines

- Portage County man arrested as fugitive from West Virginia 7:28AM
- Cleveland State University's No. 2 administrator, Provost Mary Jane Saunders, resigns 7:00AM
- E-mails from Yazeed Essa's fugitive days scrutinized at murder trial 6:00AM
- Paleontologist Scott Sampson to speak today at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History about exotic dinosaurs of 'West America' 4:00AM
- Cuyahoga County transition leaders call for 15 percent spending cut in 2011, with savings to promote job creation 2:05AM

More: Metro - cleveland.com »

2010 CADILLAC CTS LUXURY COLLECTION
LOW MILEAGE LEASE FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES WITH A LEASE ENDING 6/30/10

\$369 PER MONTH* **39 MONTHS \$5,544 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING AFTER ALLOWANCE**

INCLUDES SECURITY DEPOSIT. TAX, TITLE, LICENSE AND DEALER FEES EXTRA. MILEAGE CHARGE OF \$20 PER MILE OVER 39,000 MILES. AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS ONLY. RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

10 best

▶ CLICK FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS

Popular Tags

- akron
- anthony sowell
- armed robberies
- cleveland
- Cleveland
- cleveland city council
- cleveland city hall
- cleveland police
- cleveland schools
- crime
- cuyahoga county
- cuyahoga county common pleas court
- cuyahoga county government
- education
- fire
- homicide
- homicides
- mayor frank jackson
- metro
- metro news
- nasa
- ohio
- police
- shooting
- traffic

CYCLE WORLD INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOWS

Most Commented on cleveland.com

The stories you're talking about

195

Mike Holmgren names ex-Packers aide to first office

- [Giving](#)
- [Global Village](#)
- [Grammy](#)
- [Haunted](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Heroes 2008](#)
- [Heroes 2009](#)
- [Holiday Spirit](#)
- [Holidays](#)
- [Inauguration](#)
- [Indians](#)
- [Ingenuityfest](#)
- [Innerbelt Bridge](#)
- [Inside City Hall](#)
- [Jessie Davis](#)
- [johanna](#)
- [Labor Day](#)
- [LeBron James](#)
- [Lee Lucas](#)
- [Link roundup](#)
- [Little Italy Guide](#)
- [Lyndhurst](#)
- [Medical](#)
- [Medical Mart](#)
- [Memorial Day](#)
- [MetroHealth](#)
- [Mosaic](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [neighborhoods](#)
- [Neighborhoods](#)
- [News](#)
- [Obituary blog](#)
- [Ohio City Guide](#)
- [ohio legislature](#)
- [Ohio news roundup](#)
- [Ohio State](#)
- [Open](#)
- [Parma](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Presidential candidates](#)
- [Real Estate News](#)
- [Real Time News](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- [Regionalism](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Rock Hall](#)
- [Rocky River](#)
- [School shooting](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Sean Levert](#)
- [September 11](#)
- [Shaquille O'Neal](#)
- [Shooting](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Spelling Bee](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Sports Impact](#)
- [St. Patrick's Day](#)
- [Strongsville](#)
- [Summer Guide](#)
- [Swine Flu](#)
- [Taste](#)
- [Top Photos](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Traffic fatality](#)
- [Tremont Guide](#)
- [University Circle Guide](#)
- [University Hospitals](#)
- [Veterans](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Visit Cleveland](#)

proposed new speed limit would not be enforced until about 2013 when a new intersection at West 73rd Street is completed.

McCall wrote that lowering the speed limit will increase the average commute time by only about one to two minutes because the city has dropped the idea to add several new traffic lights to that section of roadway.

The project has been divided into two phases, with work to begin this summer on rebuilding a crumbling pedestrian tunnel running under the roadway to Edgewater Park. Construction of a bike trail linking with an existing trail in Edgewater Park to form a continuous path is also planned for the first phase of the project as well as the new West 73rd intersection.

The state has pledged federal money totaling almost \$50 million for the project, which covers the first portion of construction, with about \$10 million leftover for the second phase, which should cost about \$20 million.

The second phase is the centerpiece of the project and involves ripping out the concrete dividers on the West Shoreway and replacing them with a tree-lined, landscaped median.

Councilman Zone said he's worried the city will struggle to find the \$10 million or more needed to finish the project once the federal money is gone.

"I think in the future when we are committing to a project, there needs to be an accurate estimation of the true costs of the project, so we don't end up championing a project when we don't know how we are funding it," Zone said.

Zone added that earlier timelines for the project, which had construction beginning in 2008, spread "false hope" about how easily and quickly the project would be completed. New commercial and residential projects that dot the area were built under the assumption that residents would have improved access to the lakefront, Zone noted.

Skindell said he is looking for a vehicle to get a similar amendment placed in the Senate in case the measure passed by the House ends up bogging down. He said he expects the Senate's Republican leadership to get on board with the idea because the project is so strongly backed by ODOT and city officials.

Visiting Texas?

Learn More in the Official Texas Travel Guide. Order Now for Free!
www.TravelTex.com

Low Airfares To Cleveland

Find Low Airfares To Cleveland. Book Flights For Cheap From Tripmama.
www.tripmama.com

Windows Server® 2008 R2

Windows Server Helps Optimize IT & Save You Money. Read The Whitepaper
Microsoft.com/WindowsServer2008

Sponsored Links

 [Recommend \(0\)](#)

 [Print this](#)

 [Email this](#)

Share this: 

Previous story: [An OSU vs. Michigan game crasher, a national reference at the Cleveland Clinic: Whatever happened to ...?](#)

Next story: [Pedestrian killed by hit-and-run driver Sunday night at West 117th Street in Cleveland](#)

Story tags: [ohio house](#) | [west shoreway](#)

Comments (80 total)  [RSS](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Oldest comments are shown first. [Show newest comments first](#)

1 | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#)

[Next comments »](#)



Posted by [nuclearfree](#)
 January 25, 2010, 6:38AM

Photo caption needs some cleanup.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)

front office: [Browns insider](#)

132

comments

[Deeds aren't his strength, so President Obama searches for more magic words: Kevin O'Brien](#)

105

comments

[Despite Vikings' loss, there's no reason to mess with NFL's overtime rules -- Bill Livingston column](#)

95

comments

[P.M. Cleveland Browns links: If there is a 2010 Quarterback Derby, it might not be Brady Quinn vs. Derek Anderson](#)

89

comments

[Talking quarterbacks; rating the special teams; and catching up with Cedric Jackson - Cleveland Sports Blog Network](#)

From Our Advertisers

- [How do I know if I need a home energy audit?](#)
- [Where Cleveland shops for appliances](#)
- [The ultimate entertainment experience](#)

[Advertise With Us »](#)

- [Water Compact](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Westlake](#)
- [Whatever Happened To...](#)
- [World at War](#)

 [RSS Feed](#)

Browse by month

Select a date

[Go](#)



Posted by [joe](#)
January 25, 2010, 7:14AM

If anybody really looks at the picture, the pedestrian shown crossing the "Freeway" is crossing in a crosswalk, at a traffic light and yes the cars are stopped. The pictures shows the lie of the concept. This has got to be one of the stupidest ideas of the 21st century. Lets slow traffic down, put in traffic lights, force cars to idle increasing pollution, and wasting gas, keeping parents from their families, making it harder to get to a from work. Why? Because some hair brained politician thinks it would be cool to be able to walk across a vital artery into the city.

Just think, if the West Shoreway is turned into a cow path, the traffic on I 90 will double, and the commute of everyone on the west side will take twice as long. Brilliant. The planners have just found another way to chase people, and corporations out of Cleveland. With political thinking like this pretty soon Cleveland will become a tourist attraction as a Ghost Town. The first major American City to disappear. When Cleveland is no more that a small village on the lake it will be attributed to corporate greed by the Plain Dealer Corporation, not governmental stupidity, but none the less the people will be gone, probably to other states.

This is a boondoggle. Give a politician a dollar and she/he will spend a million, then whine because the can't give their cronies an enormous pay raise. This is not fiscal responsibility, this it pure government greed. Get bums like Skindell, and his budget busting colleagues out of government. Give them a job for which they are truly qualified, picking up paper with a stick in the park.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [j@bb0](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:05AM

You forgot the Red light Camera's they can add some of those...For Safety reasons of course.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [booe420](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:16AM

You are EXACTLY correct.If the Gov't wants cars to get better mileage then they shouldn't slow cars down.They should not make it take longer to get to where you are going.I just can't see people crossing the new BLVD to get to the park.They all drive down there anyway.If they want better access,build some walkway bridges over or under the road.LEAVE THE ROAD ALONE.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [jabs](#)
January 26, 2010, 1:23PM

I hope this project goes through - the quicker the better. I live in Lakewood and like to bike downtown and to Edgewater. This will be great for everyone not in a car racing home or racing to work. If you want a shorter commute time, live closer to your work - don't rely on government to bail you out with a faster speed limit.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [westside7](#)
January 26, 2010, 5:29PM

"If you want a shorter commute time, live closer to your work - don't rely on government to bail you out with a faster speed limit"
Hey I did move closer to work! That's why I chose the Westside (Lakewood). We are growing out of our house though and thinking about our next move. Increasing commute time takes away one of the best qualities of living on the Westside! And it might be just enough to take us back to the eastern suburbs. Too bad.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [ourfounders](#)



January 25, 2010, 7:58AM

"The state has pledged federal money totaling almost \$50 million for the project, which covers the first portion of construction, with about \$10 million leftover for the second phase, which should cost about \$20 million. " I just love this comment. It's not real money because its coming from the federal government so its not really costing anything. Pure genius.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [jimbio](#)
January 25, 2010, 8:06AM

Now is there any doubt we have MORONS as elected officials? If you travel from the Westside to Downtown how many year will this really take!!! 60m for what, really for what. this ranks with other Cleveland a bonehead ideas
OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [olive](#)
January 25, 2010, 8:15AM

Oh goodie, just what I wanted, a longer commute to work to the east side. I don't get it- there already is a way for pedestrians to bypass the shoreway to get to the park, why do we need more? Most people utilizing the park in the summer are cooking out or at the beach, they're not going to walk there carrying all their things. Why don't they use the \$ to finish whatever project they've had going on in the right westbound lane for over a year now!! We need a nationwide tax payer revolt.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [gottaplan](#)
January 25, 2010, 8:25AM

Typical negative uninformed posters... this project is critical to opening up ACCESS to the lakefront. If any of you took a moment to investigate what this project truly consists of, you'd see that it relocates the shoreway in several places and makes multiple new tie-ins that don't exist currently. Slowing the traffic to 35 mph will add maybe 3 minutes to your drive from Clifton Blvd to downtown. Any of you seen the new development in the Detroit Shoreway area? That area needs this project completed in the worst way.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [booe420](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:22AM

If it adds 3 minutes each way thats 6 minutes per car.If the have 10,000 cars a day that's 60,000 minutes of more gas consumption and pollution. 3 minutes isn't worth it.LEAVE THE ROAD ALONE.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [westside7](#)
January 26, 2010, 5:35PM

Hey your 3 mins turns to 15 if you add snow or sun-glare. Plus isn't there already access to the Lakefront via Edgewater Park?

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

[Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [Scrivo](#)
January 25, 2010, 8:39AM

The whiners are from the suburbs because it adds 2 minutes to their commute. If you don't like your commute, don't live so far away.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [jonnychepe](#)
January 25, 2010, 8:55AM

It's about time.

Hey whiners, it's not about you- it's about the rest of us.

Move closer to work or take the rapid. When they changed the speed limit on MLK (Liberty Blvd) it didn't effect the travel time all that much. Quit sniveling. the worst that will happen is you'll have a more pleasant commute.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [russrc1967](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:09AM

Who are you kidding? When they lowered the speed limit on Liberty Blvd, they also dropped one lane in each direction. That went from an easy commute, to a waste of time.

I happen to think this is a big waste of money. I grew up in the area and never had a problem getting over to Edgewater.

Hopefully anyone that is represented by Michael Skindell, will remember this lame brained idea on election day.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [booe420](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:26AM

PLEASE, MLK is undrivable between 7:30 am to 9am and it's even worse in the afternoon rush hours. You could take 30 minutes to get from Euclid to I90.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [jonnychepe](#)
January 25, 2010, 11:24AM

Like it wasn't a traffic jam during those times before the changes.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [cleveland197](#)
January 25, 2010, 8:58AM

Stop whining, suburbanites! If your commute is going to be inconvenienced by a mere 2 or 3 minutes, why don't you move your SUV and 2.5 kids CLOSER TO YOUR WORK! Your commute time should not be anyone's concern but your own. Opening up our lake to more access is, and hopefully will continue to be, priority number ONE!

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [j@bb0](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:17AM

riiight 2-3 minutes+ 60 million + thousands of vehicles+ sitting on the shore way for hours, and in return you want everyone to move to make way for it. so pedestrians can walk?

You need to look at how these past projects turned out. If you bothered to do some actual research you would realize that you are embarrassing yourself and the whole internet is laughing at you.

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)



Posted by [jobbyisback](#)
January 25, 2010, 9:25AM

Hey you want a shorter commute? UM don't live in Avon. The lake is one of the best

assets Cleveland has. About time we actually get to see it from the shores. Most people only see it zooming by at 70 mph on the shoreway...

Inappropriate comment? [Alert us.](#)

 [Reply to this comment](#) | [Post a new comment](#)

1 | 2 | 3 | 4

[Next comments »](#)

You must sign in to post a comment.

Sign in to cleveland.com

Username

Password

[Sign In](#)

Don't have an account?

[Register Now!](#)

We've upgraded our community features on cleveland.com

[Learn more! »](#)



Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...

[Go](#)

[Site Map](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact us](#)

[Make us your home page](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Interact](#) | [Living](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Place an Ad](#)

- [Your Photos](#)
- [Your Videos](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Music](#)

- [Post a Job](#)
- [Post a free classified ad](#)
- [Sell your car](#)
- [Sell/Rent your Home](#)
- [Apartments & Rentals](#)
- [Claim your Business Listing for Free](#)

- [Friday! Magazine](#)
- [High School Sports](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Taste](#)
- [Going Out Guides](#)
- [Style](#)

- [Subscribe to our content \(RSS\)](#)
- [Subscribe to Email Newsletters](#)
- [cleveland.com Tweeter feed](#)
- [cleveland.com on Facebook](#)
- [cleveland.com mobile site](#)



Special home delivery offers!

[The Plain Dealer](#)
[Sun News](#)

© 2010 Cleveland Live, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). [Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. [Contact interactivity management](#).