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# The Columbus Dispatch

Thursday, December 13, 2012

## Kasich: Turnpike plan would mean \$3 billion, 65,000 jobs

By Joe Vardon

TOLEDO – Gov. John Kasich said his plan to leverage the Ohio Turnpike without leasing it would generate \$3 billion for state road projects and create 65,000 jobs.

As expected, Kasich announced this morning that he would seek to issue new debt against the 241-mile toll road rather than lease or sell it to a private entity. The turnpike will remain under the control of a revamped Ohio Turnpike Commission – a commission that will expand and work more closely with the state Department of Transportation.

“It’s stunning to me that this hasn’t been done in the last 20, 25, 30 years,” Kasich said at a news conference this morning at Modern Building Supply in Toledo, about 11 miles from the turnpike.

The announcement formally put to rest two years of speculation that Kasich could seek to lease the turnpike – an option that appeared to have strong opposition in northern Ohio where the road stretches from the state’s eastern to western borders.

Under Kasich’s proposal, the state would generate \$1.5 billion from two new bond issuances and up to an additional \$1.5 billion from matching local and federal funds for Ohio transportation projects.

The funds are expected to fill the state’s \$1.6 billion shortfall for outstanding road projects.

Continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/12/13/Kasich-unveils-plans-for-Ohio-Turnpike.html>

The logo for the Associated Press, consisting of the letters 'AP' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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## Kasich: Ohio Turnpike plan will fund road projects

By John Sewer and Julie Carr Smyth, Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Highway and bridge construction projects put on hold a year ago for as many as two decades will be sped up under a proposal to use the Ohio Turnpike to raise as much as \$3 billion for roadwork. And it will be done without huge toll increases or giving away control of the turnpike, Gov. [John Kasich](#) said Thursday.

The plan comes two years after Kasich first floated the idea of getting more money out of the northern Ohio route that links the East Coast with the Midwest, suggesting Ohio follow the lead of other states and cities that have pocketed cash for their toll roads.

County leaders along the turnpike objected loudly to leasing the turnpike, fearing that a private operator would eliminate jobs, spend less on maintaining the road and impose higher tolls that would drive traffic onto local routes that meander through small towns.

"People need to understand we've listened to them," Kasich said. "This turnpike will remain a valuable asset, and we will be able to unlock value in this turnpike for decades to come."

The proposal centers on raising \$1.5 billion through bond sales backed by future toll revenues. Up to an additional \$1.5 billion could be generated by matching local and federal funds.

Nearly three dozen multimillion-dollar road projects slated for the coming years were put on hold or delayed significantly last January because the state's transportation department said there just wasn't enough money.

The turnpike financing plan, which will need some legislative approval, would erase a \$1.6 billion highway budget deficit, said Ohio Transportation Director [Jerry Wray](#). "We are going to move 20 years of projects into six years," he said.

Continued here: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Kasich-Ohio-Turnpike-plan-will-fund-road-projects-4115298.php>



December 13, 2012

## Ohio DOT's plan to generate \$3 billion without leasing its Turnpike

by Tina Grady Barbaccia

Wow. No layoffs and a solid plan to generate funds. Imagine that!

Public-private partnerships have become all the range and are an excellent, sound opportunity to generate funding to accomplish transportation projects. They are becoming the new norm (outside of the transportation realm as well).

However, I must say, it's refreshing to hear that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has found a way to generate nearly \$3 billion for highway and road construction without leasing the Ohio Turnpike – and without laying off Turnpike employees.

Continued here: <http://www.betterroads.com/lease-vs-bond-ohio-dots-plan-to-generate-3-billion-independently/>