

Strongsville scraps I-71 slip ramp project after NOACA hesitates

Updated Sep 20, 2016; Posted Sep 20, 2016

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Strongsville Mayor Thomas Perciak spoke to a resident after Monday's City Council meeting, where he announced that the city is dropping the proposed I-71 slip ramp project. *(Bob Sandrick, special to cleveland.com)*

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STRONGSVILLE, Ohio - The city has dropped plans for a \$7.7 million "slip ramp" - or any other road project - that would alleviate traffic at [the Interstate 71-Ohio 82-Howe Road interchange](#).

That's what Mayor [Thomas Perciak](#) told residents Monday night. He said the [Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency](#), which the city had hoped would help fund the slip ramp, has withheld its support, at least for now.

Perciak said NOACA is reviewing data obtained from a relatively recent 71-corridor traffic study and is expected to submit a new report, based on that study, to the [Ohio Department of Transportation](#). Previously, ODOT awarded a \$3.5 million grant for the slip ramp project. The data review will delay the project indefinitely.

"The smart thing for us to do is pull the plug on this and let the agencies do what they are going to do," Perciak told residents.

Residents living in the Howe-Shurmer Road area applauded the move at Monday's council meeting. They have opposed the slip ramp - which would have allowed drivers to bypass heavy southbound traffic at 71 and 82 and travel directly to the Howe-Shurmer intersection - saying it would only shift traffic tie-ups to their neighborhood.



Strongsville will seek alternatives to I-71 'slip ramp'

Strongsville will consider alternatives to a proposed \$7.7 million "slip ramp" from I-71 southbound to Howe and Shurmer roads. That's because residents living in the Howe-Shurmer area oppose the slip ramp.

However, some in the audience - including Howe resident Ann Roff, who led the opposition to the slip ramp - agreed with Perciak that the 71-82-Howe area needs some kind of traffic improvements. She asked if ODOT, NOACA or the city might perform another traffic study of the interchange; if the city still had the \$3.5 million in ODOT funding; and if the city would send representatives to ODOT-NOACA discussions regarding the 71-82 interchange.

Perciak said he's not aware of any additional traffic study in the works; that the city never actually received the \$3.5 million from ODOT; and that the city has no intention to send representatives to ODOT-NOACA meetings. He said Strongsville officials might talk about alternatives to the slip ramp but he wasn't enthusiastic.