

METRO

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THE PLAIN DEALER

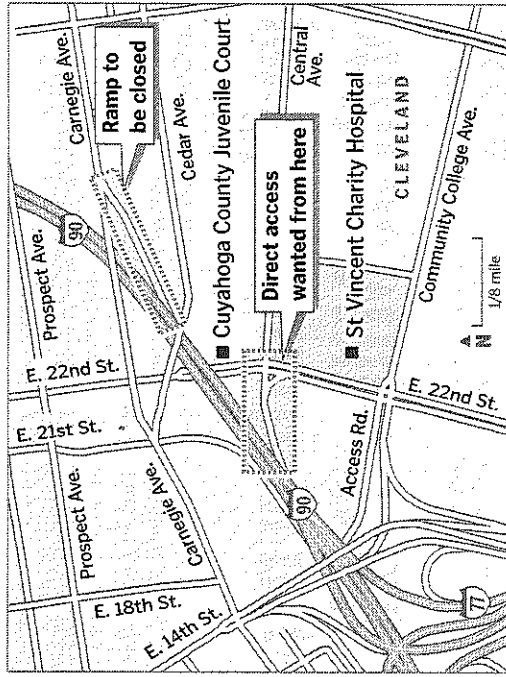
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Carnegie Avenue highway access

Currently, drivers on Interstate 90 eastbound can directly access eastbound Carnegie. ODOT wants to eliminate that exit and send traffic to Carnegie by way of the East 22nd Street exit. The Greater Cleveland Partnership tried unsuccessfully to add an offshoot ramp from the East 22nd Street ramp to Carnegie.



SOURCES: ESRI; TeleAtlas; Ohio Department of Transportation

JAMES OWENS | THE PLAIN DEALER

ODOT making move to drop Carnegie exit

Compromise plan fails to get support

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Plain Dealer Reporter

The state plans to go ahead with plans to revamp the Inner Belt without direct access to Carnegie Avenue in Midtown.

The Ohio Department of Transportation plans to close several ramps in "the trench," an accident-prone stretch of Interstate 90 that feeds Midtown and other neighborhoods east of

downtown. The Greater Cleveland Partnership stepped in last month to broker a compromise deal but was unable to gather enough support.

Midtown officials and some city leaders have protested the closings, saying the loss of the exits would hurt businesses and stifle development.

Drivers on Interstate 90 eastbound can now access eastbound Carnegie directly from an exit near the Central Cadillac dealership by East 28th Street.

ODOT plans to eventually re-move the exit. Drivers would

then reach Carnegie by exiting at East 22nd Street, turning left, then taking a right or left onto Carnegie at the first stop light.

The partnership, the region's largest chamber of commerce, suggested adding an offshoot ramp to Carnegie from the 22nd Street ramp.

The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Courthouse has been the main stumbling block to the proposal, said Dave Lastovka, an ODOT project manager. A direct ramp to Carnegie would run through the building.

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CARNEGIE

FROM B1

ODOT planning to remove exit

The county owns the center but plans to move operations to a new complex at East 93rd Street and Quincy Avenue in 2011.

The county is willing to sacrifice the building for a ramp, but some preservationists consider the complex — parts of which date to 1931 — historic.

A Carnegie ramp could also kill a proposal to create an area for development over the highway. The Quadrangle Inc., a nonprofit

tion, wants to cap ... Inner Belt to create space for new businesses and a better link among Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College and St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

ODOT expects to submit a draft of its Inner Belt plan to federal highway officials in about a week. A public hearing and comment period should follow in the fall.

It was unclear Friday whether the Carnegie delay will push back ODOT's plans for a 2010 groundbreaking.

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