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ODOT chief says cost-cutting helping patch budget holes

By ADRIAN BURNS

The Ohio Department of Transportation laid out a road map to cutting expenses and boosting revenue at its State of ODOT presentation Tuesday – and the potential privatization of the Ohio Turnpike remains a bit player in those plans for a financial recovery so far.

“What happens with the Ohio Turnpike is just one piece,” ODOT Director Jerry Wray said following an address to reporters, state legislators and ODOT employees. “And that one is probably further out than the others.”

Instead, ODOT since January has cut its staff by 400 through attrition, changed its approach to budgeting, and has taken a close look at operations to cut expenses, Wray said. It’s also begun plans to build new revenue-generating highway service plazas on Route 23 south of Columbus. The result has been an improvement in the troubled financial picture at ODOT, Wray said, promising more details at a June 6 Transportation Review Advisory Council meeting to approve a final list of major new projects.

“The news is better than we had forecast last January,” Wray said.

Article continued here: <http://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2012/05/29/odot-chief-says-cost-cutting-helping.html>

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