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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Blasting Associated with Construction of Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel Begins

Akron, Ohio, November 15, 2016 — Blasting associated with the Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel (OCIT) project began this month. While disruption due to the blasting is expected to be minor, the blasting may be felt, heard and seen downtown, in the area of OCIT-2 Site near SR 59 and Market Street.

Blasting allows construction crews to excavate rock beneath the ground to construct drop shafts and consolidation sewers, which connect surface sewers to the tunnel. A video explaining the OCIT tunnel construction process is available on the Akron Waterways Renewed YouTube channel at: <https://lnkd.in/dAqGkNG>. Contractor Kenny Obayashi sent out letters in September to local businesses and residents, letting them know that blasting activities could occur as early as October.

The blasting is controlled and certified personnel are on-site to make sure that all necessary safety measures are in place. These safety measures include noise and vibration monitoring.

People within a half mile of the blast site may hear a sound similar to fireworks for two to five seconds or feel vibrations as if a truck were passing by. Also, a small cloud of dust might rise from the blast area. An audible warning is given prior to each blast:

- Five minutes prior to blasting – five long whistles
- One minute prior to blasting – five short whistles
- All-clear after blasting – one long whistle

In addition to the whistles, traffic will be stopped or rerouted for a short time during blasts, at the following location near each of the blasting sites:

- OCIT-2 (Rand and Glendale) - Rand and Market Street
- OCIT-2 (Behind Federal Building) – SR 59 and Market Street
- OCIT-2 (In Summa Parking lot) – SR 59 and Market Street
- OCIT-3 (Exchange Street) – Exchange Street only (beginning in early January).

Blasting for the Rack 19 Drop Shaft (located at the southwest corner of West Market Street and Dart Avenue) began on Tuesday, November 8. Blasting is anticipated to occur daily, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. for the next four months. The typical blasting round at Rack 19 will be once per day. However, the first two rounds require smaller test blasts which may be shot on the same day, a few hours apart.

Blasting for the OCIT-2 Drop Shaft (located at the northwest corner of Glendale Avenue and Rand Avenue) will start this week. Blasting is anticipated to occur once every week and a half between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the next four months.

Blasting for the OCIT-3 Drop Shaft (located below West Exchange Street, near the intersection of Exchange Street and South Main Street) is not anticipated to begin until early January 2017. Blasting at the OCIT-3 site is anticipated to occur once every week and a half between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. for six months.

All blasting notifications will be posted on www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com under the OCIT tab.

For more information, please contact Heather Bolestridge, AWR! Communications Manager, at (330) 375-2949 or by email at hbolestridge@gstephensinc.com.

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