

Governor in support of corridor concept

By **PAUL GIANNAMORE** 8-10-10
Business editor **HERALD STAR**

STEUBENVILLE — Gov. Ted Strickland said he supports the Columbus-to-Pittsburgh Corridor concept, but will base future action on the outcome of a pending feasibility study for the final section of the highway network.

The corridor steering committee has been working for several years, involving officials from seven counties stretching from Jefferson County to Columbus to see completion of a four-

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lane, limited access highway network that would provide an alternative to traffic having to take Interstates 70 and 79 to get between the two cities. State transportation officials have been studying congestion along I-70 for several years.

A feasibility study on moving forward to build 28 miles of highway across Harrison County from Newcomerstown to Cadiz is expected to be released late this year. At the July meeting of the corridor committee, some members expressed concern that the study appears headed toward saying the highway link is not needed.

Strickland, during a campaign stop at Voto Sales Monday morning,

said he will act based on the study's outcome.

"I want to see what the study says. I think when you talk about expenditures of significant sums of resources, you have got to have the kind of research that is going into this study to guide us in our decision-making," he said. "I am hopeful, and perhaps the study will come back and say that the traffic patterns and congestion and the need for the movement of goods and services are such that they would justify this. If that is what the study says, we will do everything we can to move forward."

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