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Lucy McKernan - Comments

Posted by the **Federal Highway Administration** on Aug 19, 2025

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I have been attempting to get wildlife crossings in Ohio for several years. I am in touch w/ ODOT, finishing reading the go-to book on the matter: "Crossings: How Road Ecology is Shaping the Future of the Planet," (image attached) and attempting to engage others to take action, I absolutely believe wildlife crossings to be the MOST effective measure that can possibly be taken for the continuation and resiliency of wildlife populations in the face of land use change and extreme weather shifts. In other words, we need this program to continue, especially for relevant long-distance animal migrations and/or at-risk species crossing roads between critical habitats.


Personal experience, including years of obtaining and researching police records involving deer-vehicle crashes, has shown me that far more animals are hit and seriously injured or killed by cars/roads than those reported.


The need for crossings, whether they be modifying existing culverts or new over or underpasses, is twofold: to protect existing individuals and entire populations, through prevention of accidents and fragmentation of habitats.

I believe this is a bi-partisan matter that enjoys overwhelming support, that the benefits incalculably outweigh the costs, and that both humans and nonhuman animals will benefit from extending the crossings program.

One more note: In other countries, like some in South America, if a person has property damage after hitting an animal on the road, they sue the highway administration and get reimbursed. I believe every new construction project should come with the mandate to improve or add wildlife crossings. I live in Ohio, where previous applications for this funding have failed. But I know that it wouldn't cost much for ODOT/FHA to put in appropriate crossings based on hotspot and already conducted studies, per the Stone 2022 surveyor study.

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