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Gov. John Kasich promises that most money from turnpike lease deal would be spent in northern Ohio

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By Reginald Fields, The Plain Dealer

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Hoping to sway a leery public about his plan to lease the Ohio Turnpike, **Gov. John Kasich** on Tuesday promised that over half the money gained from a potential deal privatizing the toll road would be spent on road and highway projects across northern Ohio.

"We'll make the commitment that at least half the proceeds from a lease or bond would mean we put at least half the money on roads that are north of Ohio 30. We think that is a fair thing," Kasich said during a speech at a transportation engineers conference in Columbus.

"We can't put it all up there because, you know, we have infrastructure needs all across the state," the Republican governor said. "But we can give at least half to the people that live up there."

Ohio 30 runs east and west from the Mahoning Valley, across Canton and Mansfield and over into Indiana. The governor also said that he would dedicate funds to communities that directly line the turnpike. He accused the **Ohio Turnpike Commission** of ignoring those communities.

Read the full article here:

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2011/10/most_money_from_turnpike_lease.html