



The Honorable Ryan Smith
Chairman, Finance Committee
The Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Smith,

I have been greatly disappointed by the recent amendment to the ODOT funding bill regarding the Eastern Corridor project. Representative Brinkman has characterized the project as one that no-one supports. To the contrary. There are a great many business owners and residents that support the Eastern Corridor and understand the importance of improved connectivity to this portion of our region.

Another misconception about the project is that nothing is being done. As the Representative should know, the Eastern Corridor project spans two counties and a number of jurisdictions. What the public needs to know is that OH-32 and I-275 Interchange, Kennedy Connector and improvements to Red Bank Road are all part of the Eastern Corridor. All of them are either complete or are substantially underway. Also important to note--those projects are all part of the over \$1 billion price tag the Enquirer continues to report.

So that really leaves us with two remaining components of the project--relocated OH-32 and the Oasis Rail. Both remain without a preferred alignment for the public to consider and both highly controversial. I would submit that the reason they are controversial is that we do not yet have a clear set of options from which to choose. Until we narrow down the myriad of options we will never be able to reach any type of consensus regarding location, cost or any other detail critical to making an informed decision.

In summation, I urge this committee to remove section 755.03 from this very important appropriation bill and allow ODOT to move ahead in an expeditious manner to complete the Eastern Corridor Study.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Slattery", is written over a horizontal line.

Bob Slattery