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Thank you Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Driehaus and members of the House Finance Committee for allowing me to give sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 315.

A request was recently made of the Controlling Board from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to increase appropriation authority for various line items dealing with three areas:

- Our traditional Highway Construction programs
- Programs that fund Public Transportation
- Turnpike related bond dollars spent on Highway Construction

These requests over both years of the biennium (FY 16 and FY 17) total roughly \$684 million. For a number of reasons, this signals very good news for the residents of the State of Ohio. I also note that representatives from ODOT are here today to provide more details on these requests.

For the first time in 10+ years we have a Federal Highway Budget bill in place. The federal FAST ACT (Fixing Americas Surface Transportation Act) will provide an estimated additional \$222 million over this fiscal biennium. Not only does the FAST ACT provide additional monies for

Ohio infrastructure, but it brings some stability and predictability to the financing of major highway construction projects.

The 2nd round of turnpike bonds is being accelerated. Originally planned for FYs 18 and 19, the market conditions are now more favorable. This quicker timetable will allow ODOT through TRAC and the Ohio Turnpike Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) to continue their funding of critical Ohio infrastructure projects and possibly allow for the acceleration of some of the identified priority projects.

Lastly, ODOT also received two federal TIGER grants -- for which this bill provides the corrected appropriation amounts.

To allow these dollars to find their way into our programs as quickly as possible, the bill contains an emergency clause.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on SB 315. I am happy to answer questions you have and also look forward to ODOT's more detailed testimony.