



**Testimony by Director David Goodman
Ohio Development Services Agency
Ohio House Finance Committee - Subcommittee on Transportation
February 9, 2017**

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Reece, and members of the Transportation Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 26, the Transportation budget. My name is David Goodman and I am the Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency.

The Ohio Development Services Agency is committed to help create jobs and build strong communities, while ensuring accountability and transparency of taxpayer money and exceptional customer service. The Roadwork Development Grant Program accomplishes all of these goals.

The grant provides assistance to local governments for road improvement projects directly connected to business investment. This program is an economic development tool used in partnership with JobsOhio and the JobsOhio network partners. The grants are typically awarded in conjunction with a commitment of jobs, capital investment, and a strong return on investment.

Roadwork Development Grants, also known as 629s, are awarded for public roadwork improvements that support expansion or attraction of a business. The money pays for widening, paving, construction, and right-of-way infrastructure improvements. The grants normally pay up to 50 percent of public roadwork costs with the remaining portion covered by the local government or business.

House Bill 26 funds this program at \$15.2 million in each year of the biennium, which is the same level of funding as the previous biennium. The program is funded by gas tax revenues and is restricted to public roadway improvements. Each roadwork development project is subject to Controlling Board review and approval.

This program has proven useful in communities all around the state. For example, last year in the village of Columbus Grove, the expansion of Production Products, Inc. would have created a traffic issue on State Route 65. The Roadwork Development grant funded a new turn lane and other roadway improvements to facilitate the safe and efficient flow of new traffic associated with the project.

Another example is in the city of Cincinnati. Race Street needed to be extended to provide access to a parking facility for the new GE Global Operations Center downtown. This program provided funding for the street extension and repaving – which will help accommodate new employees at this site.

Roadwork Development Grants have assisted our local government partners in providing critical infrastructure for companies to locate and expand in Ohio. By continuing this current level of program funding, the state will provide communities the necessary funds to attract high-skilled, well-paying jobs for Ohio.

Thank you, Chairman McColley and members of the Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions about the program.