



The Ohio House of Representative  
Finance Committee  
Representative Scott Oelslager, Chair

HOUSE BILL 62  
PROPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on House Bill 62.

My name is Shelley Dickstein and I have the privilege of serving as the City Manager for the City of Dayton. Together with our Mayor Nan Whaley and the members of our City Commission, we appreciate the leadership Governor DeWine and this committee has shown in discussing the critical needs of Ohio's infrastructure system and the impact this has on the economic vitality and quality of life in Ohio's cities.

As you may know, the City of Dayton is the sixth largest city in Ohio and serves 140,000 residents in dozens of neighborhoods and throughout a growing business community. Long a hub for industry and invention, Dayton today is a center for advanced manufacturing, emerging technologies, logistics/distribution, education and healthcare, with a renowned arts community and a downtown that is reaching new heights as a place to live, learn, work and play.

As the City Manager, my focus centers on overseeing the operations and services of the city. Working to keep our roads maintained and safe for our citizens, businesses and visitors is a top priority for our staff. Yet like most other Ohio cities, with cuts in state funding, increased costs, changes in vehicles, we see the need for increased investment in municipal transportation infrastructure.

On average, the City of Dayton spends \$11.5 million on roadway infrastructure maintenance for the 1,700 lane miles of roadway throughout the city. The cuts in local government funds made it necessary to seek additional funding for our residents. As a result, two years ago we passed an additional income tax initiative to fill a portion of the funding gap in our general revenue funds. While our staff works incredibly hard to use our resources effectively and efficiently, the city still has major capital improvement needs that lack funding, and continued cost containment will be necessary since the cost of maintenance and repair will likely outpace revenue growth. This has pushed us to apply for as much funding as possible through Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and Ohio Public Works Commission. Yet, there is still a \$7.5 million gap between transportation needs and funds, annually.

As you know, earlier this month, Governor DeWine's Transportation Infrastructure Advisory Committee issued their report and shared the challenges Ohio's cities are facing as we try to address our transportation infrastructure needs. We join with them and others across Ohio to support the proposed 18 cent increase in the gas tax, as it will provide vital funding for our transportation infrastructure across the state which not only impacts public safety but will help support the economic growth we are driving in Dayton.

Again, thank you Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Scherer Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee, for this opportunity to share our views on this critical economic development and public safety matter.

  
Shelley Dickstein  
Dayton City Manager