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Committees:

Agriculture, Vice-Chair
Energy and Natural Resources
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
Finance Sub-Committee: General Government & Agency Review

Senate Bill 6
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
Sponsor Testimony
February 22, 2017

Chairman LaRose, Vice-Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 6. Senate Bill 6 would establish the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program under the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Bridge Partnership Program was created by executive action in October of 2013. The Department of Transportation has invested approximately \$138 million in repairing and replacing nearly 204 county and city bridges statewide over the last four years. This Program has been extremely beneficial to a number of communities across the state, but unfortunately is set to expire at the end of Fiscal Year 17, June 30th of this year, which is why I am sponsoring this legislation.

Senate Bill 6 would statutorily create the Bridge Partnership Program within the Department of Transportation. The Department utilizes federal dollars to work with counties and municipalities to rehabilitate or rebuild bridges within that entity's jurisdiction that are structurally deficient. These projects are entirely paid for using federal funds – the BPP does not require a local match.

In order to qualify for the BPP, a bridge must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be not less than twenty feet in length
- Must be "structurally deficient" in that the bridge, while safe for use, is in need of repair
- Currently must be open and carrying vehicular traffic
- Not currently being funded by other sources

Senate Bill 6 also requires that within 90 days, the Director of ODOT will submit a report to the Governor, Senate and the House on continued funding for the program. The report shall include recommendations for how the department can continue to fund the program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and beyond using the department's current and continued revenue sources.

Chairman LaRose and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 6. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.