



March 14, 2017

**Testimony
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
Support for SB 6
Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research**

Good morning Chairman LaRose, Vice Chairwoman Kunze, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here today to express support for SB 6 which would codify the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program.

Beginning back in October 2013 Governor Kasich announced a three year, \$120 million program to repair structurally deficient bridges on the local highway systems of counties and municipalities. Initially, the Administration identified 40 bridges – 30 county bridges and 10 municipal bridges – to be worked on in 2014 and an additional 80 bridges to be identified in 2015 and 2016. Subsequent to this effort the Administration identified an additional \$10 million to be used for such projects. CCAO attended the press conference when the Program was announced and endorsed the program at that time.

Through a combination of cost efficiencies by ODOT as well as capturing unspent federal money from other states, Ohio was able to free up dollars that could be put to this extremely beneficial purpose. In order to qualify for this program this legislation requires bridges to meet three requirements:

- The bridge must be not less than twenty feet in length.
- The bridge must be structurally deficient in that the bridge, while safe for use, is in need of repair.
- The bridge currently must be open and carrying vehicular traffic.

The three requirements are identical to the requirements informally established by the Administration back in 2013 when the initial effort was launched. The bill also requires the Director of ODOT to confer with appropriate county and municipal officials regarding the selection of bridges. The bill provides that the Program may include embankments, drainage, and other issues related to a bridge that is chosen.

Lastly, the bill requires the director to prepare a report that includes recommendations for how ODOT can continue to fund the Program after the end of SFY 2019. The bill sunsets the Program at the end of SFY 2019.



County Risk
Sharing Authority

Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebc.org



County Commissioners
Association of Ohio
Service Corporation

Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org

Inspecting, maintaining, repairing and, when necessary, replacing approximately 26,000 bridges on the county system requires the cooperation of state and local officials. CCAO supports this effort by the state to assist counties in meeting the transportation needs of Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions that you might have.

