

**House Finance Committee  
HB 62 Testimony**

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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today in support of the increased infrastructure funding in House Bill 62.

My name is Dan Horrigan and I am the Mayor of the City of Akron. Akron is the fifth-largest city in Ohio with a population of roughly 200,000 people. As you can imagine, for cities of our size, our infrastructure needs are significant and constant. Transportation infrastructure serves as critical connectors for people and product, drives economic growth and attracts new businesses to not only Akron, but to the state as a whole. When arteries of our economy are in disrepair, the health of our communities and state suffers.

Across the state, there is a major shortage of available funds for repairing and maintaining our state's roads and bridges. I was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to serve on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Transportation Infrastructure and heard first hand, through two and a half days of testimony, the state's very real, and significant, need for infrastructure funding. A recent industry report indicated that 35% of Ohio's major locally and state-maintained urban roads and highways have pavements in poor or mediocre condition, the report also notes that nearly 10% of all local bridges show significant deterioration or are structurally deficient. Despite these circumstances, Ohio's metropolitan regions generate 90% of the state's GDP and generated nearly all the state's net job gains since 2000.

In Akron, prior to 2012, we were able to use between \$2M to \$2.5M of the roughly \$7M to \$8M Gas/Tag tax to fund necessary capital projects. Beginning in 2012, Akron had to start using all of the Gas/Tag tax on strictly operating costs alone to make repairs and ensure our current infrastructure is safe, which has left no funding leftover for capital road improvements. In addition, throughout this time local governments faced significant state funding cuts, which also impacted our general revenue budgets and left Akron unable to invest in new capital infrastructure.

If our state is serious about attracting and keeping businesses, and making Ohio a place where people want to live, work and play, we need a realistic and sustainable state and local transportation and infrastructure funding solution. Local transportation networks are critical to the health and vibrancy of our cities and the statewide economy, and I urge you to support increased infrastructure funding. Thank you for your time and attention, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.