

**Testimony of Linda Bailiff, Director
Ohio Public Works Commission**

**House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation
Thursday, February 18, 2021
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

Good afternoon, Chairman Patton and Subcommittee members. I am Linda Bailiff, Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission, and have Abbey DeHart with me, the Commission's Assistant Chief Financial Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Commission's Fiscal Year 22-23 budget. My brief testimony covers the items in both the transportation and operating budget bills to speak to our operating budget in its entirety.

The Transportation Budget Bill, H.B. 74, contains funding for the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP), a competitive grant program that we administer in conjunction with the other infrastructure program under our purview, the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP). LTIP receives one cent of the 28-cent motor vehicle fuel tax levy under ORC 5735.27. The appropriation amounts in the budget were developed with the assistance of the Ohio Department of Transportation based on projected revenue estimates, a reduction from the previous biennium as a result of reduced fuel tax receipts. This program, available to counties, municipalities, and townships, provided funds to about 200 road and bridge projects last year.

The bill also contains LTIP funds for operating costs. Our total operating costs - administrative, maintenance, and equipment - are shared between our various programs with 60% SCIP, 20% LTIP, and 20% Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation. The SCIP and Clean Ohio operating lines are in the Operating Budget Bill. Our request is a continuation budget and based on the retention of our existing nine staff. We've aligned our request to reflect the administrative effort necessary to manage all of our programs which is less than one-half percent of our total program funds. It is important to note our entire project portfolio of more than 1,800 active infrastructure and Clean Ohio projects and about 3,000 active loans.

The remaining item, contained in the Operating Budget, is OPWC's share of the State's debt service for our bond programs, the State Capital Improvement Program and Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, as determined by the Office of Budget & Management.

Abbey and I are happy to respond to any questions and have also provided contact information.

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