



Written Testimony of Grace Gallucci
Senate Transportation Committee
134th General Assembly
Columbus, Ohio
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Chair Kunze, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and members of the Committee, my name is Grace Gallucci, and I am the Executive Director and CEO of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that conducts transportation and environmental planning for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties. I appreciate the opportunity to address S.B. 162, to expand the authority of the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) regarding evasion of tolls on the Ohio turnpike and disclosure of personal information.

Eight-eight miles of the Ohio Turnpike pass through the NOACA region. As NOACA works to improve the efficiency of the region's multimodal transportation system, I am pleased that OTIC is moving forward to modernize its fare collection system through the use of open road and electronic tolling. This will reduce the cost of fare collection, and allow drivers to travel more efficiently without the need to stop at toll booths. Also, by reducing vehicle emissions related to idling at toll booths, this new system may even help improve air quality in Northeast Ohio. In order to implement the new system, OTIC must have adequate legal authority to enforce fare collections and reduce fare evasion. Without this authority, OTIC will lose revenue, and users may not trust that all drivers are paying in an equitable manner.

By the same token, this system must fully protect customers' due process rights for contesting unpaid tolls and fees. Furthermore, customers must be assured that the new collection system will protect their personal identification information. These provisions are essential to protecting the basic rights of drivers on the Ohio Turnpike, and ensuring that the system is fair.

I believe that S.B. 162 will do both: provide OTIC the legal authority it needs to fully and fairly collect fares from drivers using the Ohio Turnpike, while also providing customers with due process and protecting their personal information. Many other states are moving forward to modernize their turnpike fare collections, and the Ohio must do the same. All drivers will appreciate the ability to travel the Ohio Turnpike with ease – and without the need to stop at toll booths to collect tickets and pay fares. Therefore, I am pleased to support S.B. 162, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.