



Representative Melanie Miller
Ohio House District 67

House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
House Bill 276 – Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Chairman Swearingen, Vice-Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 276 which would repeal a certain interstate interchange. Our colleague Senator Mark Romanchuk is carrying the companion Bill in the Senate which is Senate bill 155.

Today, I stand before you as an advocate for the preservation of the homes, the communities, and the voices of the city of Brunswick. I want to shed light on why this highway expansion project is detrimental to the city Brunswick and its surrounding communities.

One of the most distressing parts of this project is the demolition of homes. Families who have planned their lives, including retirement, along Boston Road, will now have their dreams ripped away. The question of eminent domain looms large, with the likelihood that these homes will never be compensated at a fair market price.

I'd like to emphasize 3 major issues as to why this initiative is bad for Brunswick:

- **First, the “Homes”:** Behind every demolished house, there's a personal story, a lifetime of memories, and a sense of belonging. I've heard countless stories of parents and children alike, worried about losing their homes. Imagine the burden of that worry and the impact it has on families.
- **Another component to think about is “Safety & Unexpected Impact”:** The presence of a jet fuel pipeline under the landscape of Boston Road, dating back 35 years, raises serious concerns. We cannot forget the recent and unfortunate history of East Palestine. The dated pipeline poses risks that could have devastating and unforeseen ramifications for residents, ecology, and the environment.
- **Lastly, let's discuss the “Cost”:** The practicality of leveling Boston Road, with its hilly terrain, and relocating the pipeline is an enormous financial burden. We must

ask ourselves if it's worth the cost, especially when Boston Road is ill-suited to carry highway traffic.

It is evident that Boston Road is not suitable for an interchange like this. The citizens of Brunswick are being asked to sacrifice their homes, disrupt the ecosystem, and incur significant expenses for a project that should never have been considered in the first place. This is why my colleagues, and I are advocating for legislation to repeal this plan.

The community united, collecting over 3,000 signatures online and in person- this is a testament to our shared commitment to preserving our homes. This interchange, as it stands, sets a dangerous precedent for other areas in our state. It bypasses established channels like NOACA and the Federal Highway Association, and this is not how decisions of this magnitude should be made.

This bill has broad support from the region including the elected leaders of the city of Brunswick, Medina County Commissioners, leaders of the surrounding communities, as well as local business leaders. A few short weeks ago we hosted many of these leaders along with a bus full of residents from Brunswick and the surrounding communities to show support for this legislation.

Let us stand together in solidarity, ensuring that the "Homes not Highways" movement is heard, and let us work tirelessly to protect our homes, our environment, and the principles of fairness by supporting this critical legislation for the Brunswick community.

Thank you. At this time, I would like to invite my Joint Sponsor Representative Ray to share her perspective on the bill.