

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and Members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Nancy Frognowski, and I have been a Brunswick resident for 42 years. My home is less than a mile away from the proposed site of the I-71/Boston Road interchange.

I am testifying today in support of House Bill 276, which repeals Section 5501.60 of the Revised Code.

This past March when the Transportation Budget was approved and signed by Governor DeWine, it became public knowledge that very specific language was inserted into the bill at the last minute regarding the location of interstate interchanges. This language specifically targeted Boston Road in the City of Brunswick. Brunswick was blindsided by this action. What we are facing is unjust and does not resolve Strongsville's traffic issues at Route 82 and I-71. If this can happen in Brunswick, it can happen in other cities in Ohio, disrupting more neighborhoods and people's lives. There is a protocol which has been in place for many years to determine locations of interchanges and I believe this protocol should remain in place.

When Governor DeWine signed the Transportation Budget containing the interchange provision, he stated he was "very concerned" this measure circumvents normal state procedures for approving interchanges, but he would meet with both sides about finding a way to resolve the conflict. As we have witnessed, this effort has been unilaterally led by the City of Strongsville without any input from Brunswick or the other neighboring communities, which was supposed to happen by law.

So very much about this situation is so very wrong - this has been forced on our City - we had no say in a matter which greatly affects us. A number of Strongsville and Brunswick residents will lose their homes to eminent domain, homes in which they have lived for many years. Other homeowners in the area are finding their property values decreasing. An interchange will bring heavy truck and heavy vehicle traffic to our very residential area, along with noise, light and air pollution. Boston Road and the

surrounding area will become a commercial corridor. An interchange located at Boston Road will increase crime rates, human trafficking, and bring transient safety concerns to our neighborhoods. Residents of Brunswick and Strongsville are angry about the very real possibility this could take place in our cherished neighborhoods.

Of equal or more importance, is the jet fuel line that runs parallel to Boston Road. This jet fuel line will need to be moved so Boston Road can be widened and flattened to accommodate the truck traffic. The potential risk and danger this involves should be reason enough to stop this imposed interchange. The possibility of another East Palestine situation is terrifying.

Additionally an interchange at Boston Road will place an enormous financial burden on the City of Brunswick for things such as widening Boston Road, relocating the jet fuel pipeline, maintaining the road and increasing safety forces and law enforcement patrols. Taxes would be increased with no real benefit to our city. This would no longer resemble the city where I made a home for myself and my children, and chose to stay in upon my retirement five years ago.

How does this affect me on a personal level? The people speaking here today have become close friends over these past several months as we worked together for a cause we all deeply believe in. To imagine they could lose their homes, homes that mean everything to them is heartbreaking. My home will not be physically destroyed, but will be destroyed in other ways. I purchased my home eight years ago and planned on this being my forever home. I love living here and cherish all of the memories made here. As a 68 year old woman, I rely on the lawn care maintenance and snow removal services I receive as part of my HOA dues. I've made numerous home improvements, put in flower gardens, and have wonderful neighbors who look out for each other. My back yard is my sanctuary. I have a quaint covered porch, which faces a pond visited by and inhabited by various wildlife, and have two large trees providing me with privacy. When the weather is nice, this is where I spend much of my time.

On the east side of the pond, just beyond a bit of shrubbery, is North Carpenter Road. If the interchange is built, North Carpenter Road will become a traffic artery for vehicles entering or exiting I-71 the interchange. Traffic will increase and be constant – day and

night. Noise and air pollution will increase. With easy access on and off an interstate so close to my home, I am concerned about my personal safety. My home will no longer be what it was when I purchased it eight years ago, and I will look to relocate. Where do I find a house and setting comparable to where I live now? Who will be interested in purchasing my home which will be so close to an interchange? As a retiree on a fixed income, dealing with inflation, higher interest rates and housing prices, how can I possibly afford the cost of purchasing another home and the expenses which accompany that?

So I ask each of you for your thoughtful consideration in supporting passage of House Bill 276. So many lives will be negatively affected if construction of this interchange is permitted to move forward.

I thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.