

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

**House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Good afternoon, Chairman Patton, and Subcommittee members. I am Linda Bailiff, Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission. With me is Abbey DeHart, our Chief Financial Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Commission's 24-25 Biennial Budget request.

The Transportation Budget Bill contains funding for the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) which is a competitive grant program we administer in conjunction with the State Capital Improvement Program. LTIP is for counties, municipalities, and townships, and provides funds for about 170 road and bridge projects annually. The LTIP is funded by one cent of the 28-cents motor vehicle fuel tax levy distributed under ORC 5735.05. Each spring the Commission releases LTIP allocations for the next fiscal year to our 19 district public works integrating committees based on projected revenue not exceeding our appropriated budget amount. In the event of an increase in fuel tax receipts, we are requesting a 1.7% increase in FY 24 and a 6.7% increase in FY 25 for program capital appropriations. This request gives us flexibility should receipts come in higher to allocate more funds to our districts. Otherwise, we will maintain or reduce district allocations as appropriate.

The bill also contains LTIP funds for operating costs. Our total operating - administrative, maintenance, and equipment - is prorated between our various programs of which 20% is assigned to LTIP. Our request is for a 4.9% increase in FY 24 and a 1.5% decrease in FY 25. This reflects retention of eight existing staff and one vacancy. It also is based on the continued development of our customer cloud platform, WorksWise, and transition to a maintenance status the second half of the biennium. This request, together with the remaining operating budget request, reflects our administrative effort necessary to manage our programs which is about one-half percent of all our capital funds.

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

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