



120 North Main Street • Bethel, Ohio 45106 • (513)734-2243 • (513)734-3112 FAX • www.bethel-oh.gov

HB 370 TESTIMONY

The Village of Bethel is a community of 2700 people located in Clermont County. We have three state routes that run through the Village of Bethel. State Route 133 runs north-south through town and State Route 125 runs east-west through town. We also have State Route 232 running into the village.

The Village of Bethel has an LMI rating of above 60% and we are listed as an EPA IRA Disadvantaged Community. As a result, the Village tries to operate as leanly as possible.

The Village of Bethel has a public works department consisting of six employees who maintain our streets, water distribution system and electric distribution system.

The Village of Bethel has a one percent income tax that is directed by ordinance to be deposited directly into the Police Operating Fund. The income tax provides approximately \$500,000 in funding to the Police Department.

The Village of Bethel General Fund budget is \$711,000. In 2023, just over 50% of the general fund was transferred into the Police Operating Fund. Other large expenditures for 2023 from the General fund were for our park and for maintenance to our municipal building. The Village of Bethel does not have a park levy.

The Village of Bethel has a small street levy of 2 mills which provides \$66,300 for paving and culvert / bridge maintenance. We have a total of five municipal bridges listed in ODOT's Municipal Bridge program that we have to maintain.

The Village of Bethel receives \$135,000 in gas tax funding for maintaining our streets. 7.5% or \$10,000 is to be set aside for State Highways. Our last paving project cost \$462,000. Much of this was funded via CDBG grants and ARPA funding. We paved 19,600 Square Yards of street surface. Of that, 2200 Square Yards were paving on State Highways. Over \$115,000 of the \$462,000 went to pave the State Highway sections. This is equivalent to 11 and a half years of receipts into the State Highway fund. To be clear, that \$115,000 could have been used to expand the paving of our village streets.

Clearly, the Village of Bethel is not equipped, nor do we have the funding to maintain the state highways within the Village and, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Village of Bethel, I encourage you to pass this measure to put the responsibility for the maintenance of state highways within villages back to the Ohio Department of Transportation.