

# Village Of McConnelsville

To: Ethan Kash  
From: Timothy D. Louis  
Date: 4/8/2024  
RE: Testimony on House Bill 370

To all concerned,

I feel it is my responsibility to testify regarding my past experiences in reference to House Bill 370. I am currently the Village Administrator for the Small Village of McConnelsville Ohio. This current job and my previous employment with the Village of New Concord as a police officer and an operator for around 21 years has given me an extensive background in dealing with the issues regarding this House Bill.

For many years as a police officer I watched State Highway Patrol Troopers initiate traffic stops inside the village limits and without hesitation many citations were written out of such stops. After I transferred from being a patrolman at New Concord to being an operator I watched many instances where the State of Ohio refused to complete any work inside the Village corporation limits and in many cases make more work for Village employees because of their unwillingness to willingly take care of State Routes within the Village. So I ask you why does the State of Ohio come into the Villages and make money through fines from traffic stops and refuse to acknowledge ownership of State Highways or perform routine maintenance on the roadways?

Back many years ago in the Village of New Concord the fire department couldn't figure out why there was so many traffic crashes when it snowed on Interstate 70 bridge that went ovetop of state route 83. After a brief period of time and some complaining from motorists it was discovered that ODOT in Muskingum County was not treating the section of roadway that was in their county and instead getting off the exit ramp onto state route 83 and back on the entrance ramp to interstate 70 in the opposite direction

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leaving a several hundred yard stretch of the interstate untreated. The situation was immediately resolved once discovered but can you imagine the lawsuits in todays society if that was to occur.

I watched snow plows drive through town and pull up their plows at one end of the corporation limits and put their plows down while heading up the onramp to interstate 70. I watched snow plows leave foot tall wind rows of snow while plowing just to make a "U" turn at village limits so they could turn around and head back the way they came from. After a period of years and too many complaints from the citizens of New Concord ODOT decided to start pushing the snow into a pile at the end of Snoots Lane. The problem with this became even worse than the windrows because of the Damage that was being done to a residents yard by the name of George Shegog. One year there was mud/grass/dirt plowed up several feet tall and an area left the width of a snow plow and several feet into the homeowners yard. Now keep in mind not only did ODOT tare up the residents yard but when all the snow melts it leaves dirt, grit, and trash in his yard from roadway debris. The operations department at the Village of New Concord had to go out in the springtime and replant his yard with grass seed, straw, and sometimes till it up because of this not to mention shovel the roadway debris that would sometimes be left behind.

On another occasion on South Friendship drive ODOT would swing around just south of interstate 70 and have to go so wide to do so that they plowed off one of our manhole tops leaving a 4' wide concrete opening that could have been extremely dangerous had someone driven in it or fell in it. By the time it was discovered there was a significant amount of road debris inside the manhole and partially plugging the sewer line.

An additional instance is here in McConnelsville on state route 78 or N. 8<sup>th</sup> street as is also referred to we have a rather large pothole in front of the address of 509 North 8<sup>th</sup> street. It is easy to see the cause of this pothole as I have taken many pictures of the street not being sloped the proper way. Actually the street isn't sloped at all here it's a large belly which catches and

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holds water. When I contacted ODOT regarding the improper paving of the street I was told that they paved this 6 years ago and it wasn't their fault because it held up for 6 years. Well yea, exactly my point. It took 6 years of the water puddling in this section and the amount of traffic driving over it to break down the asphalt to compromise the integrity of the asphalt and catapult it into its current state. I was told to fill it with cold mix and if it did not alleviate the issue they would take care of it. So I had my operations department do just that. They filled it with cold mix knowing it wouldn't alleviate the issue and the very next rain that occurred I took pictures of the massive area not draining to the curb or catch basin as I was instructed and here we are over 2 months later and I still haven't gotten a response from ODOT.

It really just shouldn't be like this at all. What sense does it make that a state agency with less than 1% of the ODOT budget can take time out of their schedule and enforce laws inside corporation limits but ODOT can create headaches for the same municipalities.

This bill is not an option it's a necessity and I hope you can understand exactly why.

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