

Eileen Krejci - SB 155 Proponent Testimony, Ohio Senate Transportation Committee
November 15, 2023

Good morning Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and the members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Eileen Krejci, and I am here to voice my support for SB 155, which repeals the language forcing an I-71 interchange at Boston Road.

I built my home on Boston Road in 1987, before many of the nearby developments were built. My children were 8 and 11 years old and grew up in this home. For several years, we were a house in the middle of a corn field, but you wouldn't recognize it today.

Today, Boston Road is an established residential area, with many homes and developments in both Brunswick and Strongsville. I am retired now, and love to watch the deer, ducks, rabbits, and foxes in my lovely, park-like backyard as I have my morning coffee.

This would change drastically if this interchange is built, as we've been told it would require widening the road, which is currently only 2 lanes, to 4 or possibly 6 lanes.

Some plans show that even cul-de-sacs would be impacted, with interchange lanes going directly through the center of these cul-de-sacs while other homes are left on either side for what will become a new highly traveled road to be built into the neighborhood. Our sleepy little neighborhood will be turned into a thoroughfare for traffic exiting the interchange.

The worst part is that Brunswick had no voice or vote as to whether we wanted this interchange. Unfortunately, the representative who did this only cared about what would be beneficial for Strongsville when he inserted specific legislative language into House Bill 23 in order to "circumvent the normal procedure" required for a new interchange.

That is the whole reason why NOACA, an MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization), was created in the 1960's --- to give localities a stronger voice in planning highways after the government initially rammed interstates through low-income city neighborhoods with little oversight.

It was a blatant overreach for one representative to usurp NOACA's power and responsibilities to create an "ideal" new Boston Rd. interchange location, which primarily benefits only Strongsville.

It is disconcerting to think that a representative of another city in a different county can decide to build an interchange in Brunswick without the consent of its city officials or residents.

Brunswick (along with many Strongsville residents) does not want an interchange in our residential neighborhood. We have been told at least 14 homes will be taken, but likely it will be many more, and dozens of families will be forced to move.

Please help us by supporting SB 155 to repeal this unfair law.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.