

Ohio Senate
Transportation Committee
November 15, 2023
Written Testimony of Kristy Piper

Chair Kunze, Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the consideration of this written testimony. My name is Kristy Piper, and I am a Council Woman at Large for the City of Brunswick. I am writing in strong support of the passage of Senate Bill 155, as introduced by Senator Mark Romanchuk.

Ohio Revised Code (ORC 5501.60) is causing quite an issue in my community. Currently this means that a highway interchange will need to be placed in one of two locations in the city of Brunswick. For some unknown reason, the city of Strongsville believes that this interchange would best be put at Boston Road. This road is in a residential area, and is not equipped to handle traffic that would come with a highway interchange. I have spoken with many of the residents who live on Boston Road and the surrounding roads that will be impacted by this proposed interchange. These residents are living in what they have come to think of as their forever homes. They are well maintained homes and the owners take pride in their homes. One resident showed me a picture of his backyard, which contained a beautifully manicured garden oasis. These homes will be taken away from the residents as they are in the way of where the interchange will need to be built. Home values have already taken a hit as a result of this proposed interchange, and I cannot even begin to imagine the stress and grief this is causing for the homeowners. Our residents deserve better than this.

As a twenty-four year public school educator in the community, my mind goes to the safety of our residents, especially our children. I had always heard rumors of a jet fuel pipeline being somewhere in the area of Boston Road. Imagine my shock when I learned that the building of an interchange at Boston Road would mean that this jet fuel pipeline would need to be relocated. It is not safe to move a jet fuel pipeline. If an accident were to occur during the relocation, my community could turn into the next East Palestine. The effects on the environment and wildlife would be devastating. In addition, I fear that an interchange in a residential area would increase crimes such as home invasions, robberies, and even human trafficking. An interchange would provide a quick getaway route. Residents should feel safe in their homes. Our residents deserve better than this.

Finally, I am concerned about the financial impact that an interchange at Boston Road would have on the city of Brunswick. As I stated earlier, Boston Road in its current state is not equipped to handle the traffic that would come with a highway interchange. It is a hilly, two-lane road. The road would need to be not only expanded, but re-engineered. This would be a lengthy and costly process as the road would need to be flattened. The city of Brunswick does not have the financial resources to take on such a tremendous project. Reallocating resources would mean that our residents would suffer. Our residents deserve better than this.

On behalf of the City of Brunswick, I request that you support SB 155, which would repeal the interchange requirement in ORC 5501.60. I ask that you take my testimony into consideration and support this important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify,