

OHIO SB155 INTERCHANGE RAMP LANGUAGE REPEAL

The residents of Brunswick, Medina County were betrayed in an historic, unprecedented action in the State of Ohio taken by a house representative in Ohio House Bill 23. To make matters worse, the bill was then signed by the governor. I'm writing on behalf of Brunswick's Boston Rd. and Carpenter Rd. residents. The wording in Ohio House Bill 23, was changed to intentionally discriminate against and bully the City of Brunswick and Medina County. The language dictates that ramps from I71 can be imposed every 4.5 miles based on population, regardless of cities and counties being different. The wording appears to only effect the city of Brunswick along I71. Curiously, Brunswick City Council was not informed of any of this back-door activity until after the fact. Highway ramps do not belong in residential areas, period!

The action was taken without any actual current studies, data, or statistics of the area. The Strongsville traffic issue was created by the City of Strongsville by allowing years of excessive housing and industrial/commercial development. Any new I71 ramps should be solely located in and funded by Strongsville as they won't benefit anyone in Brunswick, other than increasing traffic flow, increasing maintenance and taxes, and lowering property values. Previously (at least once) Strongsville rejected a subsidized slip ramp. I live at the Howe Rd. and Boston Rd. intersection. The traffic on I71 South has drastically been reduced due to people working at home after Covid, and the mall parking lots are always 3/4 empty. Traffic on Howe Rd. heading to Brunswick from Rt. 82 in Strongsville becomes negligible after crossing Drake, Golden Star, Acacia, and Falmouth Rds. (in Strongsville) with barely any cars ending at Boston (dead-end) in Brunswick to turn in either direction. A ramp in Brunswick will not alleviate the traffic in Strongsville. **THE TRAFFIC IS NOT GOING TO BRUNSWICK!** The extremely narrow Boston Road is one of the busiest roads with both car and truck traffic in Medina County, and is already plagued by hills/dips, and poor visibility. There is also an environmental issue that nobody seemed to have been aware of. A Buckeye Pipeline high-pressure fuel line runs the length of Boston Rd. A ramp would definitely require the widening and leveling of Boston Rd. and relocation of the pipeline, which would put the pipeline at residents doorsteps! Strongsville already has two exit/entrance I71 ramps, Brunswick has one. This precedent would open the door for this type of unfair practice to continue. Any new ramps Strongsville desires, should be entirely in their city and county, along with the associated costs. The representative responsible for this abuse of power is not a spokesman for Brunswick, Brunswick Hills, Hinckley, Medina, or Medina County who all oppose the ramp. We are requesting that state officials use their conscience to end this bullying to have this obviously discriminatory language be stricken from House Bill 23 and to restore our faith in our duly elected officials!