

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Transportation Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony in support of Senate Bill 155, which repeals Section 5501.60 of the Revised Code. My name is Nancy Frognowski, and I have been a Brunswick resident for 43 years. My home is located less than a mile away from the proposed site of the I-71/Boston Road interchange.

In March of 2023, when the Transportation Budget was approved and signed by the Governor, it became public knowledge that very specific language was inserted into the bill at the last minute regarding the placement of interstate interchanges. This language specifically targeted Boston Road in the City of Brunswick. Brunswick City Council and residents were blindsided by this action. What our community is facing is unjust and does not resolve Strongsville's traffic issues at Route 82 and I-71, as determined by a Strongsville based engineering company who conducted the study. If this can happen in Brunswick, it can happen in other locations in Ohio, disrupting more neighborhoods and people's lives. There is a protocol which has been in place for many years to determine locations of interchanges and I strongly believe this protocol should remain in place.

When the Governor signed the Transportation Budget containing the interchange provision, he stated he was "very concerned" this measure circumvents normal state procedures for approving interchanges, but he would meet with both sides about finding a way to resolve the conflict. As we have witnessed, this effort has been unilaterally led by the City of Strongsville without any input from Brunswick or the other neighboring communities, which was supposed to happen by law.

So very much about this situation is so very wrong - this has been forced on our City - we had no say in a matter which greatly affects us. A number of Strongsville and Brunswick residents will lose their homes to eminent domain, homes in which they have lived for many years. Other homeowners in the area are finding their property values decreasing. An interchange built in this location will bring heavy truck and vehicle traffic to our very residential area, along with noise, light and air pollution. Boston Road and

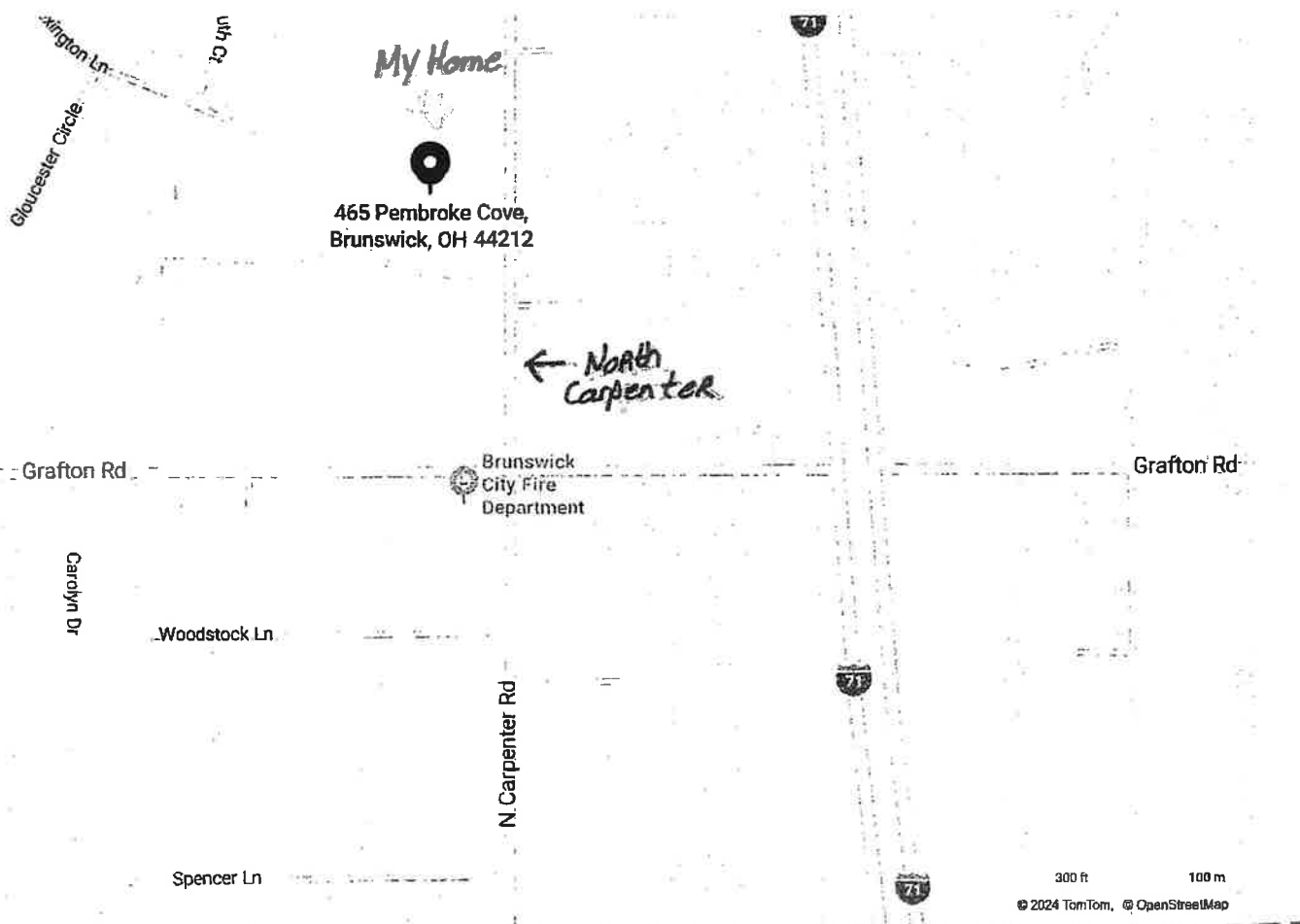
each other. My back yard is my “quiet place” – my sanctuary. I have a quaint covered porch, which faces a pond inhabited by various wildlife, and have two large trees providing me with a bit of privacy. When weather permits, this is where you will find me enjoying the scenery, the peace, reading a good book.

Facing my porch on the other side of the pond, the east side, just beyond a bit of shrubbery, is North Carpenter Road. North Carpenter Road runs north and south, parallel to I-71 and intersects Boston Road less than a mile away from my home. (See Map 1 and Map 2). If the interchange is built, North Carpenter Road will become a traffic artery for vehicles entering or exiting the I-71 interchange. One of the plans for the interchange shows that traffic exiting the freeway southbound will flow directly onto North Carpenter Road. Traffic will increase substantially and be constant – day and night. Noise and air pollution will also increase. With easy access on and off an interstate so close to my home, I am concerned about my personal safety. My home will no longer be what it was when I purchased it eight years ago, my back porch “quiet place” will be forever changed. For those reasons, I will look to relocate. But where do I find a house and setting comparable to where I live now? Who will be interested in purchasing my home which will be so close to an interchange? As a retiree on a fixed income, dealing with inflation, higher interest rates and housing prices, how can I possibly afford the cost of purchasing another home and the expenses which accompany that?

So I ask each of you for your thoughtful consideration in supporting passage of Senate Bill 155. So many lives will be negatively affected if construction of this interchange is permitted to move forward. And looking into the future, many more Ohio citizens could be in the same position as we find ourselves, if Senate Bill 155 is not passed.

I thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this issue. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached by email and/or phone, which are provided on my Witness Form.

Map 1



Map 2

