

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for your time and consideration of this written testimony. My name is Paul Magovac and I am the Service Director for the City of Brunswick in Medina County. I am writing you for your support and passage of House Bill 155, as introduced by Senator Mark Romanchuk. This bill will remove a section of the Ohio Revised Code 5501.60 that mandates the construction of a highway interchange into a specific residential corridor at the border of Cuyahoga and Medina County.

Boston Road is classified as a major collector by ODOT and is in fair shape just handling today's traffic. Should this interchange move forward, Boston Road would require a major reconstruction and widening to handle the anticipated traffic. Construction of the interchange and associated road reconstruction and widening would necessitate removal of a minimum of 35 to 50 dwellings and relocation of a major gas line (Buckeye Pipeline). The financial burden on the City of Brunswick would be detrimental. This burden is not just on the City of Brunswick but its residents as well. Residents are afraid to invest in their home as the result of not knowing if their home might be taken away due to the construction of an interchange. Residents on side streets are now considering moving due to the large potential increase of car and truck traffic. The Ohio Department of Transportation and Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency are both opposed to ORC 5501.06, as it attempts to circumvent their processes by requiring construction of an interchange at one specific location without first completing the federally mandated studies to justify the interchange.

On behalf of the City of Brunswick, I am requesting that you support Senate Bill 155 and the repeal of ORC5501.60.