

Hello,

I am writing to express my grave concerns over the proposed I-71 interchange at Boston Road. My name is Greg Glauner, and I am the Fire Chief for the City of Brunswick. With our new response model that includes a centrally-located fire station, which will be fully functional next summer, the proposed interchange will be on the outskirts of the area we serve. We anticipate that this interchange will increase the number of accidents as vehicles will be going from high speeds as they exit I-71 to slower speeds in a residential area. This will greatly overtax our response capabilities. Over the last decade, the number of alarms requiring our emergency services has more than doubled, and we are functioning with the same resources and number of personnel. At times, we struggle to handle the present call volume and must rely on mutual aid from surrounding communities. Additionally, we anticipate an increase in the amount of traffic passing through our City. Instead of the City of Brunswick being the destination point as it is currently with the Center Road/303 intersection, the new interchange will merely be a cut-through to outlying destinations. This will neither enhance the community nor serve the citizens of Brunswick. Conversely, it will undermine established residential neighborhoods and bring commercial traffic down a narrow and dangerous road. One destination for commercial vehicles will be the Industrial Parkway in the City of Strongsville. This raises additional concerns as to what hazardous substances may be transported through residential areas. Boston Road is a narrow street with deep ditches making the potential for an accident on wet or icy roads. Handling a hazardous materials incident in this area with limited access would be challenging and potentially displace a large number of residents. Therefore, I am adamantly opposed to this interchange as it does not serve the citizens of Brunswick nor enhance our City in any way. Conversely, it is a detriment that could create traffic congestion and a potential for serious incidents at a time when our emergency response call volume is at a record high.

Respectfully,  
Greg Glauner, Chief of Fire