

## Written testimony

Chair Stephanie Kunze, Vice Chair Bill Reineke, Ranking Member Nickie Antonio and members of the Transportation Committee

Thank you for your consideration of my written testimony. My name is Theresa Bassett. I am a life long Ohio resident and have lived in my Brunswick home for 46 years. I am writing in strong support of SB 155. Earlier this year a provision (ORC 5501.60) was inserted into the transportation budget bill (HB 23) that would change the Ohio Revised Code. It changes the way highway interchanges are to be built according to population size of adjacent cities, with adjacent counties along interstate highways. Our Governor stated that he “was very concerned that the measure circumvents normal state procedures for approving interchanges.” While this interchange has been under consideration since the early 1980’s, failed negotiations were not the problem. This project has not gone forward for many different reasons, including safety, environmental, historical and economic. During Covid and hard financial times this project was tabled due to lack of funds and interest.

Boston Road is a two-lane suburban county road, located in a residential area. It has always been a very hilly road with numerous blind spots in it. This makes it difficult to see when turning left or backing out of a driveway.

For this project to go forward Boston Road would have to be widened, flattened and lowered. In 2002 a problem was found on the south side of Boston Road. Two gas pipelines run under the driveways of the residents on Boston Road. These pipelines would have to be moved. No one seems to know the condition of the jet fuel pipeline which was installed sometime prior to 1977 before the housing developments were built. I am very concerned about the possible environmental effects of moving the pipelines and if there would be a possibility of an explosion occurring if they have to be moved.

This change will require that many homes in a beautiful residential neighborhood will be destroyed. The residents in our neighborhood have seen significant drops in their property values since the discussion of this project started. There are many senior citizens in this area. Will they be able to get enough money from the sale of their house to allow them to relocate in a similar neighborhood? Many of the residents are living on Social Security. They would have to take out mortgages

in retirement, and would be depleting their retirement funds when they need them the most.

The Brunswick roads levy we passed about ten years ago has made a lot of improvements in our roads. Now all of this would be destroyed. What a waste of our tax payer dollars!!

The city of Brunswick runs on a lean budget. It does not have the money to build or maintain this project. The cost of the pipeline relocation would fall directly on Brunswick's shoulders. There would also be increased costs for snow removal and police protection.

The cost of this project is one of the main reasons it has not gone forward in the past. It is even more costly today than it was then. There is no financial benefit to the city of Brunswick or Medina County for building this interchange.

As a Brunswick resident I am upset that this legislation was passed into Ohio law without the input of Brunswick or Medina County residents or officials.

The Strongsville feasibility study for this project which was released earlier this year admitted that the interchange in this area would do little to alleviate the traffic concerns at Route 82 or Route 303, the reason given by the Strongsville Representative that this interchange was needed. I believe the traffic problems in Strongsville are the direct result of many years of overdevelopment of the Route 82 coupled with lack of city planning. This study also underestimates the number of homes that would need to be destroyed and the cost of those homes. The study only focused on a Boston Road solution. It did not look at any other solutions within Strongsville to fix the problem they say they are trying to solve. This project should not go forward!

I hope that you will bring SB 155 up for a vote soon. I hope that you will move quickly to remove this language from the law

Thank you.

Theresa A. Bassett

