



# Village of Jackson Center

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## Testimony Before the Ohio House Transportation Committee

### House Bill 83

**April 24, 2025**

**To: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 83, legislation that clarifies and adjusts the responsibilities of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for state highways located within municipal corporations, particularly Ohio's cities and villages.

My name is Ed Maxwell, and I serve as the Economic Development Director for the Village of Jackson Center, Ohio. On behalf of Mayor Jesse Fark, Administrator Drew Sosby, and the Village of Jackson Center Council members, we appreciate the sponsors, Representatives Ferguson and McClain, for bringing this bill forward, and we'd like to offer our support for its intent with a few observations.

House Bill 83 appropriately recognizes the differing capacities and needs of cities and villages when it comes to the maintenance of state highways within their corporation limits. We are a small Village of 1,450 in Shelby County Ohio but we have 2 very important state highways that traverse through our community. Both of these highways are used significantly by area industries, specifically Airstream, Inc. and Honda of America. The latter has a large amount of truck traffic on these highways as our community is almost centrally located between their engine, transmission, and auto assembly plants.

This bill most notably removes the requirement for villages to formally request and authorize ODOT's maintenance and line-marking work on state highways. Instead, it mandates that these functions be performed automatically in consultation with the village. This change is both practical and welcome for Ohio's smaller municipalities such as Jackson Center that currently utilizes their financial and technical capacity to manage the state highway infrastructure on their own and stretches resources that we have available for other street maintenance and markings.

House Bill 83 represents a well thought through update to Ohio's transportation statutes. It better aligns state responsibilities with municipal capacity and encourages strong partnerships between ODOT and our local governments.

I respectfully urge this committee to advance House Bill 83. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Ed Maxwell**  
**Economic Development Director**  
**Village of Jackson Center, Shelby County, Ohio**