

Logan J Hannum

April 26, 2025

Testimony in favor of legislation minimizing or eliminating ODOT charging Villages for State Route maintenance.

The village of Castalia is nestled in the western portion of Erie County in north central Ohio. State Route 101 (Main Street in the village) is the main east-west route in the village and State Route 269 (South Washington) is the main north-south route in the village.

In 2024 the village council was notified by ODOT that these two roads would be resurfaced and the village would have to pay over \$64,000 for the project and they wanted payment in late 2024. We explained our poor financial situation, (\$330,000 annual budget) and how the project fee would prevent us from resurfacing village owned streets. We were able to get the project fee reduced to about \$62,000 and payment deferred until 2025.

This month, April 2025, the village received the invoice and the fee was increased to \$76,000! We reminded ODOT of the agreement from 2024 to not charge for the engineering fee, and the project fee was reduced to \$72,000.

As stated earlier, the village annual budget is roughly \$330,000 and these funds come from property tax, gasoline tax, and special levies. These funds finance everything in the village including administrative salaries, utilities, road and storm sewer repair, building and grounds maintenance and repairs, and storm cleanup.

As stated earlier, road projects for 2024 were purposely not completed in anticipation of paying for the ODOT project and pushed out to 2025. We are guardedly hopeful we can do these projects in 2025.

Without going into great detail and sending you out financial sheet, I think you can see how paying for an ODOR project on State of Ohio roads within the village drastically impacts projects on village owned streets.

Please consider the Village of Castalia as strongly supportive of any and all legislation that would minimize or reduce the fees ODOT can charge for maintenance of State owned road within the village.

v/r

James R Johnson, Mayor