



OHIO HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
April 29, 2025

Written Proponent Testimony
House Bill 83

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

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I serve as the executive director of the Ohio Municipal League (OML). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding the league's support for House Bill 83, which would strengthen the partnership between state and local government in Ohio.

The league represents more than 730 municipalities, with nearly 500 of them being villages. These communities pride themselves on being good stewards of taxpayer money. They carefully consider their finances to best provide services to their residents and businesses. One of the most crucial ways they do this is through road maintenance – often including the maintenance of state routes that overlap with municipal boundaries.

Every day, residents and visitors crisscross the state by way of our state transportation system, often driving through villages that have a limited number of residents but a strong need to provide for the safe and efficient travel of motorists.

Unfortunately, the costs of road maintenance, including snow plowing and lawn mowing, can quickly add up for struggling communities. With the limited sources of revenue available to municipalities – especially smaller ones – House Bill 83 serves as a welcome boost to these communities while providing for uniformity throughout the state and consistency among ODOT districts.

Most notably, the bill 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, but in consultation with the village. This change is both practical and welcome.

ODOT is a vitally important partner to local governments, including the municipalities OML represents, and HB83 can strengthen this partnership by providing for the maintenance and repair of these roadways within the corporation limits of smaller communities, as well as the pavement markings that make them more functional and safer.

We appreciate Representative McClain and Representative Ferguson for this thoughtful and needed legislation. HB83 will ease a burden placed on municipalities, and we ask for its favorable passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.