



HB 83 TESTIMONY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today 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 Travis Dotson, and I serve as the Village Administrator for the Village of Georgetown. I thank the sponsors, Representatives Ferguson and McClain, for bringing this bill forward, and I am here to show support for this bill.

The Village of Georgetown is a community of 4400 people located in Brown County. State Route 125 runs east-west through our Village, and portions of US68 runs north-south through town.

The Village of Georgetown has an LMI rating of above 60% and we were listed as an EPA IRA Disadvantaged Community. As a result, the Village tries to operate as leanly as possible.

The Village of Georgetown has a public works department who are responsible for maintaining the village streets, the water distribution system, sanitary sewer system, and electric distribution system. The street department consists of three workers.

The Village of Georgetown has a one percent income tax. Like most municipalities, much of this revenue goes to fund our police department. However, \$175,000 of the municipal income tax goes into our street fund each year.

The Village of Georgetown only has one property tax levy and that funds our fire & EMS.

The Village of Georgetown receives just over \$200,000 in gas tax funding for maintaining our streets. 7.5% or \$15,000 of that is to be set aside for State Highways. We spend between \$275,000 to \$300,000 per year to pave our streets. In 2024, that allowed us to pave 1.7 centerline miles of roadway. The Village of Georgetown maintains 31 centerline miles of municipal roadway. If we were able to pave every year, we would be able to pave all our streets every 18 or 18 years. Of course, we are not able to pave every year as we also use that money to replace culverts and make other stormwater repairs.

The Village of Georgetown does its best to maintain the municipal roadway within the village. However, the \$15,000 per year that is set aside for State Highways will not provide the funding necessary to maintain the 4.3 miles of state roadway within the Village.



House Bill 83 will help to realign state responsibilities with municipal capacity while maintaining strong partnerships between ODOT and local governments.

On behalf of the Village of Georgetown, I respectfully encourage this committee to advance House Bill 83, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.