



Senate Transportation Committee
House Bill 54, Transportation Budget for FY 26-27

Linda Bailiff, Director
Ohio Public Works Commission

February 26, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Commission's Transportation Budget for Fiscal Years 26-27.

The Commission helps local governments in all of Ohio's 88 counties build necessary and critical infrastructure that communities depend on every day. The Transportation Budget contains funding for the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) funded by one cent of the 28-cent motor vehicle fuel tax levy distributed under ORC 5735.05. LTIP provides funds for about 300 road and bridge projects biennially. The Commission administers the LTIP consecutively with the State Capital Improvement Program as a single annual infrastructure program.

Each spring the Commission releases allocations to the 19 district integrating committees who review, rate, and rank project applications from local governments. The LTIP allocations are based on projected fuel tax receipts not exceeding the Commission's appropriated budget amount. Due to higher than expected revenue and interest earnings in the last two years, the Commission is requesting a slight increase for program appropriations to support cash receipts. The allocations released to the districts for the current biennial budget were less than actual revenue received; therefore, the OPWC has a slight surplus to use for this upcoming budget.

The bill also contains LTIP funds for operating costs. Our total operating - administrative, maintenance, and equipment - is prorated between our various programs of which 20% is assigned to LTIP. This reflects retention of nine existing staff. This request, together with the operating budget request, reflects our administrative effort necessary to manage our programs which is about one-half percent of all our capital funds.

We are pleased to respond to any questions.