

Dear Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Ohio Senate Transportation Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name Nancy Frognowski, and I have been a Brunswick resident for 43 years. My home is located less than a mile away from the intersection of Boston Road and Interstate 71 which, as you are aware, is the site of the proposed I-71/Boston Road Interchange.

My testimony today is in strong support of Sub HB 54. I am asking for the Ohio Senate to keep the repeal language that is included in Sub HB 54 in the Transportation budget.

As you may be aware, the repeal language passed the Ohio Senate 30-1 in the last General Assembly which speaks for itself.

In March of 2023 when the Transportation Budget was approved and signed by Governor DeWine, it became public knowledge that language was inserted into the bill at the last minute requiring interchange entrances and exits at intervals along the interstates that met specific requirements included in the language. This language specifically targeted Boston Road in the City of Brunswick. Brunswick and its residents were blindsided by this action. The City of Strongsville has pushed for this interchange for many years and it becoming law and being forced on a bordering city is unjust. If this can happen in Brunswick, it can happen in other cities in Ohio, disrupting more neighborhoods and people's lives. There is a procedure which has been in place for many years for determining locations of interchanges. This procedure should remain under the jurisdiction of ODOT and NOACA.

So very much about this situation is so very wrong - this has been forced on our City - we had no say in a matter which greatly affects us. Many residents will be forced out of their homes in which they have lived for many years. Numerous residents are already facing plummeting property values. An interchange will bring heavy truck and heavy vehicle traffic to our very residential area, along with noise and air pollution. Boston Road and the surrounding area will become a commercial corridor and the residents of Brunswick and many in Strongsville are angry and upset about this happening to their cherished neighborhoods. An interchange located at Boston Road will increase crime rates, human trafficking, and bring transient safety concerns to our neighborhoods.

Of equal or greater importance is the jet fuel line that runs parallel to Boston Road. This jet fuel line will need to be moved so Boston Road can be widened and flattened to accommodate the truck traffic. Move a Jet Fuel Line??? The potential risk and danger this involves should be reason enough to stop this imposed interchange. The prospect of another East Palestine situation is terrifying.

In addition, an interchange at Boston Road will place an enormous financial burden on the City of Brunswick. Brunswick would be subject to exorbitant costs for widening Boston Road, relocating the jet fuel pipeline, maintaining the road and increasing safety forces and law enforcement. Taxes would have to be increased with no real benefit to our city. This would no longer be the same city in which I made my home, raised my children, and have now retired with plans to stay here for the remainder of my days.

And how does this affect me on a personal level? The "Homes Not Highways" group which is made up of both Brunswick and Strongsville residents came together to oppose this interchange two years ago. In that time, we have become close friends as we worked together for a cause we all deeply believe in. To see many of these friends, along with other residents, lose their homes, homes they've lived in for 30+ years, homes that mean everything to them, is heartbreaking! My home will not be physically destroyed, but will be destroyed in other ways. I purchased my home nine years ago and it is my refuge. I have made numerous home improvements, have planted flowers and landscaped, and have wonderful neighbors who look out for each other. My back yard is my sanctuary. I have a quaint porch, facing a pond which has visits from various water fowl and other wildlife. I have two large trees in my small lot, providing me privacy. Weather permitting, I spend as much time as possible enjoying my back porch and yard. I've been retired for six years and planned on this being my forever home.

When I sit on my porch and look beyond the pond, just past the shrubbery, I see North Carpenter Road, which runs north and south, parallel to I-71. North Carpenter Road could become an on and off ramp for the proposed interchange, and at the least will become a traffic artery for vehicles entering or exiting I-71 at a Boston Road interchange. Traffic on North Carpenter will increase and be constant – day and night. Noise and air pollution will increase. With easy access on and off an interstate so close to my home, I am concerned about my personal safety. My home will no longer be what it was when I purchased it nine years ago. Where do I move and find something comparable that I can afford? With high housing prices and interest rates, how can I possibly afford the cost of purchasing another home and the all the expenses that accompany that? There are many other residents asking themselves the same question.

So I ask each of you for your thoughtful consideration in supporting Sub HB 54 to repeal the language requiring interchanges at locations which meet specific requirements – in this case – Boston Road and I-71. The placement of interchanges along Ohio's interstates should be determined by the agencies that are in place to do so,

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the repeal language in Sub HB 54.

Respectfully,

Nancy Frognowski