

Senate Transportation Committee

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing this written testimony.

I am writing as a strong proponent of Sub HB 54, which seeks to repeal the interchange mandate. Notably, this exact repeal language received overwhelming support in the last General Assembly, passing the Ohio Senate 30-1. This precedent reflects a strong bipartisan acknowledgment of the challenges posed by the proposed addition of an interstate interchange on Boston Road, which borders our community.

Boston Road currently functions as a two-lane rural road with significant ditches. Introducing an interchange would require extensive widening and the replacement of the existing roadway. This area has historically been a residential neighborhood, and the anticipated increase in traffic would severely disrupt the tranquility we value so highly. Many homes may be taken through eminent domain, and those that remain are likely to experience substantial decreases in property values due to the congestion and commercialization that would ensue.

Moreover, this new interchange would serve as a direct route to the industrial parkway in Strongsville, which would undoubtedly attract commercial traffic. The prospect of hazardous materials being transported through a residential neighborhood raises alarming concerns for the safety of our families.

As the Fire Chief for the City of Brunswick, I have observed a troubling increase in emergency responses over the past six years. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, our annual call volume has surged by over 1,000, with the Brunswick Division of Fire now responding to over 4,000 alarms each year. With only two crews and a minimum staffing of three personnel per station, our resources are frequently stretched thin, putting our community at risk during emergencies.

The proposed interchange is likely to aggravate this situation by resulting in higher rates of car accidents, medical emergencies, and vehicle fires within our city. Given our current financial constraints, the City of Brunswick is ill-prepared to expand the necessary personnel or resources to manage the expected increase in call volume, and our mutual aid partners are facing similar limitations.

For these compelling reasons, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed interstate interchange at this location. It poses a critical threat to the safety, health, and well-being of our community. Supporting Sub HB 54 will help repeal the interchange mandate and safeguard our citizens and their property rights.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

Greg Glauner, Chief

Brunswick Division of Fire

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