

February 25, 2025

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

Re: Sub HB 54

I respectfully submit my written proponent testimony as follows in support of Sub HB 54.

Please keep the repeal of section 5501.60 of the Revised Code to replace the requirement that the Department of Transportation construct certain interstate interchanges with a traffic congestion study in the Transportation Budget.

The latest study, commissioned by the city of Strongsville, has shown that adding an interchange on Boston Road will not alleviate the traffic issues on I71 at Route 82, nor will it alleviate traffic issues on Route 82 within the city of Strongsville.

Strongsville has continually elected to allow additional businesses to be built on Route 82 as well as hundreds of additional homesites both on and adjacent to Route 82.

NOACA and the Ohio Department of Transportation also support the repealing of section 5501.60 from the Ohio Revised Code.

Per the October 2024 Mayoral Update (<https://www.strongsville.org/news-updates/october-2024/mayor-gives-update-on-city-projects>, 02-25-2025) :

People talk about the decline of bricks-and-mortar retail, but SouthPark Mall is actually thriving. **"Our mall will have over 7 million visitors this year,"** Perciak said -- second in the area only to Crocker Park, which will see about 8 million guests. Anchor stores at SouthPark are expected to remain, and the former Sears store will be redeveloped into an exciting new concept. Also, mall owners are working with new tenants for defunct restaurants."

Placing an interchange on my road, Boston Road, cannot possibly alleviate the traffic and congestion on Route 82 and the I71 corridor that Strongsville has imposed upon itself.

My family and I have lived on Boston Road in Strongsville for over 30 years. I am a lifelong Strongsville resident. Our family home, our 'forever' home, along with many dozens of my neighbors will be drastically affected if section 5501.60 is allowed to remain on the books.

Please support the repeal of section 5501.60 from the Ohio Revised Code by supporting Sub HB 54. The repeal language passed the Ohio Senate 30-1 in the last General Assembly.

Thank you,

Lisa Kovalsick