

Ohio Senate
Senate Transportation Committee
February 25, 2025
Testimony of Keith A. Kuczma

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and the members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to express support for the passage of Sub. HB 5 and specifically, the included language that will repeal Ohio Revised Code 5501.60. My name is Keith A Kuczma and I am the Ward 4 Councilman of the City of Brunswick, the largest city in Medina County. The City of Brunswick is thankful for the tireless advocacy of Senator Mark Romanchuk, Representative Melanie Miller, and Representative Sharon Ray on behalf of the citizens of Brunswick. As a radical departure from the data-driven decision making that typically governs how highways develop in conjunction with consultation with traffic professionals. Instead, ORC 5501.60 is solely designed for one reason: to force a highway interchange on to Boston Road – a residential neighborhood on the border of Medina and Cuyahoga Counties. If this interchange is forced on Boston Road – hundreds of residents will lose their homes at the hand of big government through eminent domain. For the last two years, these families have wondered if this is the last they spend in their family home or if their children will be forced into a new school district or even worse, they will lose the many memories they built. The entire point of ORC 5501.60, presumably, was to help with congestion or traffic concerns in the region not even in the city of Brunswick but in Strongsville. The study that Strongsville paid for, showed that an interchange on Boston Road would do the exact opposite for traffic and it would increase, no meaningful improvements would be shown anywhere in the region, and homes would be destroyed. A previously commissioned study, one version of the proposed interchange wiped out an entire neighborhood outside of Boston Road including a cul-de-sac of homes with what used to be an average price of approximately half a million dollars each. Values have since lowered with the looming threat of the government. How could citizens expect to sell their homes and get the current value with this project looming. As Chairman of the Safety Commission, I am tasked with responsible for

providing for the safety of my community. ORC 5501.60 is silent as to who, exactly, is supposed to pay the millions upon millions of dollars it will take to turn Boston Road into as many as six lanes and to relocate the jet fuel pipeline located on the south side of Boston Road. There is no way of determining the costs or impacts of moving the pipeline. The tax revenues lost from the lowering of property values and the displacement of residents coupled with the potential costs to be imposed on the city of Brunswick. Amended Senate Bill 155 not only addresses the concerns of the City of Brunswick in that it not only repeals ORC 5501.60, but it also provides for a study of the traffic in the 3 greater regions in conjunction with NOACA, ODOT, and the impacted communities in the region with the impacted city being involved in the discussion. I urge you to pass HB 54 that repeals the forced mandate and ensures the study begun by ODOT is completed without interference and it is the best outcome for all the residents of the region to allow the traffic experts to conduct a study without a predetermined result. On behalf of the City of Brunswick, I am requesting the passage of HB 54. With your vote – you can undo the nightmare that has been hanging over our community – and the residents impacted will be safe from the government destroying their homes. Thank you for taking time to hear our side to this very important vote.