



Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS
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To: Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee

From: Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS

Date: October 13, 2021

RE: HCR 31 -Extension of I-73 and I-74 - SUPPORT

Chairman Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Brown and Members of the Committee, I come before you in support of House Concurrent Resolution 31 to urge the Governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to provide for the extension of I-73 and I-74 into and through the State of Ohio.

I have been fortunate to have been elected to serve as County Engineer in two Counties, Hancock and Lawrence, that will be directly affected by the development of this Interstate corridor. We have all seen the economic prosperity that is gained by improvements to the mobility and connectivity that allow us to move our communities' goods, services, and workforce to regional economic centers and we have also seen the lack of economic prosperity when that mobility and connectivity is not present.

Hancock County has a diverse economy, from the Headquarters of the Largest Domestic Petroleum Refiner to one of the top Corn and Soybean producers in Ohio to automotive part manufactures that supply Detroit, Marysville and other automotive assembly plants in the Midwest and Southeast United States. Connectivity of Interstate highways is of paramount importance to keep the goods and services of our region moving and access those markets in a timely fashion with the least amount of lost time.

During my tenure as Hancock County Engineer, I have focused my efforts on improving safety, improving our local roadways and promoting our Transportation economy. Most of the efforts to improve safety have focused around State Route 15, from I-75 to near US 23 in Wyandot County. This segment of roadway, which is the northern segment of the proposed I-73, was constructed in the late 1960's as a rural 4-lane highway with at-grade intersections. Fast forward to 2021 and we see the character of that roadway has changed. Traffic has increased 640% and with it, higher speeds and more severe accidents. We are seeing these characteristics

throughout the entire proposed I-73 corridor. Because we know these traffic characteristics will not improve with time, we have focused our efforts in Hancock County on improving these at-grade intersections utilizing Federal, State and Local Safety funding to widen connector roads and construct overpass bridges on our higher volume County Roads. These grade separation and connector road projects traffic will not only improve safety but it will also help make State Route 15 through Hancock County behave as a true Interstate Highway.

Now, we need to encourage our Governor and ODOT Director to continue our efforts in Ohio, like the other states along this corridor and extend the I-73 from Findlay through Columbus and to Lawrence County. This will improve our mobility and connectivity to get our commodities, goods and services to regional economic centers on the southeast United States and the Atlantic Seaboard.

Thank you for your time and attention to my Testimony today and I encourage your support for House Concurrent Resolution 31.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. E. Cade", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas E. Cade, PE, PS
County Engineer

I-73 Corridor Map



From Nation i-73/74/75 Corridor Association website