



October 13, 2021
Ohio House Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee
In support of HCR 31
Transportation Advocacy Group of Northwest Ohio
Tom Kovacik, Executive Director

To Chairman Stoltzfus, Vice Chairman Dean, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Ohio House Infrastructure and Rural Development Committee, thank you for your consideration of this testimony on behalf of the Transportation Advocacy Group of Northwest Ohio (TAGNO) in support of House Concurrent Resolution 31, introduced by Representative Jason Stephens.

TAGNO is a group of local businesses and organizations dedicated to supporting the improvement of the transportation infrastructure in the northwest-Ohio region for the growth and prosperity of the region's economy. I have had the pleasure of serving as the Executive Director since 1999.

TAGNO supports House Concurrent Resolution 31 and agrees that the extensions of I-73 and I-74 through Ohio will allow a multitude of economic benefits to millions of Ohioans.

The I-73/I-74/I-75 corridor is proposed to traverse six states (SC, NC, VA, WV, OH, MI), creating jobs, attracting industry, increasing safety and connectivity, and growing tourism in every state. TAGNO has been supporting the National I-73/I-74/I-75 Corridor Association since 2007, and I am currently one of three Ohioans on their Board.

The National I-73/I-74/I-75 Corridor Association is a membership organization committed to enhancing the economic success and quality of life within the six-state corridor by pursuing the planning, permitting, funding, construction, and maintenance of Interstate 73, Interstate 74 and Interstate 75, highways of national and regional significance that will facilitate interstate commerce, reduce congestion and improve safety in an environmentally sound way.

The benefits of this proposed corridor to Ohio extend from north to south. From our northwest Ohio perspective, a better connection between Columbus and "the state up-north" is an important enhancement to our region's connection to commerce in Michigan. Additionally, the proposed Corridor's intersection with the Ohio Turnpike will further carry the economic benefits of this increased connectivity to northern Ohio's east and west borders.

In 2010, TAGNO's presence as part of the Corridor Association was the impetus for Interstate 75 being adopted into the association. I-75 lies within the I-73/74 corridor at the US 23 intersection in Findlay, and connects again in northern Michigan, taking the corridor all the way to the Upper Peninsula.

From the Ohio River all the way to Lake Erie, Ohio is well situated for economic gains from the enhanced connectivity that the proposed I-73/I-74/I-75 Corridor will bring.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 31.