

93rd House District

Vinton County
Jackson County
Gallia County
Lawrence County



Committees

Energy and Natural Resources
Chairman
Finance Committee
Finance Subcommittee on
Transportation
Insurance Committee
Public Utilities

Jason Stephens
State Representative

The intent of House Bill 16 is to clarify the responsibilities of the Ohio Department of Transportation when it comes to the state highway system roads that pass through a village's limits.

In the summer of 2020, several villages in both my district and Representative Baldrige's district noticed that when the ODOT mowers were mowing in the median of a Four Lane Limited Access Highway, the mowers quit when they came to the village limit and didn't mow the median in several villages' limits.

After several requests from the mayors of these villages, the solicitors of these villages, and even a State Representative or two, ODOT still refused to mow the median the entire summer of 2020, (creating a safety hazard, in my opinion) stating that due to provisions in the Ohio Revised Code, the villages would be responsible for the maintenance and repair of major Highways from now on, or pay ODOT an exorbitant amount to continue to do what ODOT has been doing for decades, even after ODOT received a hefty increase in the gas tax the previous year.

Upon inquiring further, I was surprised to learn that the sections of the ORC dealing with this issue are in fact somewhat vague and open to interpretation, and from what I have discovered can be and is interpreted differently from ODOT District to ODOT District throughout the state.

Over the last two decades, the state government has made it very difficult financially for local governments, especially villages. Through reduced local government funding and various forms of unfunded mandates, it is very difficult for many villages to survive, much less prosper.

Hopefully, the passage of House Bill 16 will help to clarify responsibility for ODOT within village limits and enable the state government to help our villages just a bit in the process.

I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee. Thank you.