Testimony of Linda Bailiff, Director Ohio Public Works Commission

House Finance Committee Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Chair Oelslager and Committee members, good morning. I am Linda Bailiff, Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Ohio Public Works Commission's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget.

The Ohio Public Works Commission budget represents a continuation budget to maintain existing programs and staff. The FY 20-21 budget request is designed to maintain the program objectives for the State Capital Improvement (SCIP), Local Transportation Improvement (LTIP), and Clean Ohio Conservation Programs (COCP). The Transportation Budget Bill, H.B. 62, contains the LTIP capital and operating requests; whereas, operating and debt service line items for the SCIP and Clean Ohio programs will be contained in the forthcoming State Budget Bill. Our full request will allow the Commission to continue to respond to the needs of Ohio's local governments and maintain existing services.

The Commission's budget request is based on the retention of our existing staff. The Commission aligned its budget request to reflect the administrative effort necessary to manage all of our programs which is less than one-half percent. Administrative, maintenance, and equipment costs incurred by the Commission are shared between our various programs with 60% (SCIP), 20% (LTIP), and 20% (COCP).

Given this is a continuation budget, it is important to note the portfolio of active projects. We currently have over 1,800 active infrastructure and Clean Ohio Projects and over 2,400 active loans. These numbers will increase as we process this year's submissions. The Commission stands committed to working with our local partners in seeing these projects to completion with the resources contained in our budget request.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. Our staff and I are happy to respond to any questions or concerns.