

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I am Cindy Meadows. I'm married with 2 children and reside on Boston Rd in Brunswick Hills Twp.

My home sits back from the road and there are many mature trees between the two that provide the feel of being in the country. The trees and frequenting wildlife are grounding and peaceful. One of the reasons we chose this particular home and property. If this interchange is forced on us, that sense of peace and beauty will be forever changed.

If Boston Rd should need widened to accommodate the extra traffic, and be viable for trucks, many of the trees, including Christmas trees we planted after the holiday, will be taken. The wildlife that lives and passes through on a daily basis will be affected as well.

Those particular thoughts and repercussions are important to me and my family. We moved here from the West side of Cleveland to give our children a better experience of a calmer and greener environment.

I don't think my home will be taken by eminent domain and I recognize that my situation may seem small in comparison to those who will lose their homes and I have great compassion for them. We have gotten to know each other and fought to be here in front of you today.

I'd like to mention the jet fuel line that runs through my property. It will need moved for the expansion of the road and it runs through Brunswick Hills Twp, Brunswick and Hinckley on the south side of Boston rd.

East Palistine is in the forefront of my thoughts with this lingering over my head. I understand Engineers are knowledgeable in the process, but it doesn't ease my mind, accidents happen.

So, we'll have no choice when put in harms way. We could try to sell...but this is our forever home and who wants to purchase a home on a busy, truck traveling highway? What family wants their children to live close to the dangers that an interchange could bring? Human and sex trafficking are higher near interchanges.

Then there is the matter of money. If we choose to sell, I'm almost sure we will lose the equity we have built in the 10 years we've been here.

As I understand it, Brunswick will be forced to absorb the cost for the Brunswick side of the road, natural gas and jet fuel lines to be moved. Then add in the long-term maintenance cost and any future improvements.

I've learned that Strongsville has pushed for this interchange for many years. I have heard the mayor repeat "it is a matter of safety not convenience." However, on their city website there is a map of Foltz Industrial parkway with a hand drawn red line from their Industrial Park to Boston Rd.

I don't believe this is about safety. The ultimate goal is to connect the two. This interchange would redirect truck traffic from Strongsville's Rt 82/I-71's congested area to Boston Rd and on to Foltz Parkway.

Over the summer I read an article in the Strongsville Post dated April 20th 2013. In that article titled "Councilman raises possibility for an I-71 Boston Road interchange", former Strongsville councilman, who is their present State representative's son-in-law, was quoted as saying "we have a huge stake because the whole point of the Boston Rd Interchange is to connect it to the Industrial Park".

In addition, the mayor of Strongsville stated at a council meeting over the summer that they have been waiting 18 months to hear back from the Army Corps of Engineers about the wetlands that lie between Foltz Parkway and Boston. These remarks show me it's about financial gain, not safety.

If it was, why bring even more complex dangers to his residents in the south end of his city, and other residents in communities across the street?

Boston Rd stretches several miles. There are 2 intersections that have some businesses, and literally the rest are homes and wooded property.

The problem lies in Strongsville, and they keep building in and around the congested area in question for economic gain, with what seems like no consideration for anything else.

I would like to extend an invitation to my home, to our community, to see the environment that would be so negatively impacted by an interchange.

A mistake has been made in House Bill 23 and I humbly ask you to support House Bill 276.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify here today, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.