

Good Morning:

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, ranking member Antonio and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for allowing testimony regarding our support of SB 155. My name is Mary Vantz and I will soon become a resident of Brunswick for 30 years.

Besides being a resident that will be impacted should the interchange occur at Rt. 71 and Boston Rd., I am also the former Deputy Director of Medina County Job & Family Services. I dedicated my career to public service for more than 33 years. It is a difficult job but provided a great sense of community pride and ownership. I continue to hold these values and that is why I am here today. Many of us in Brunswick and Strongsville have been working passionately for approximately 12 months. This has entailed numerous council meetings, petition signings at parks and libraries, talking to folks at as many locations as possible and the list goes on. You have heard previous testimony regarding the numerous legal reasons that clearly outline why this exchange is not warranted. You have also been presented with data from studies that this proposal is destructful to homes, properties, businesses and wildlife. And the core of the data concluded that it does not remedy the traffic problem it allegedly was intended to solve. I would like to emphasize several key points. We are NOT antibusiness. We need businesses in our communities to provide employment and revenue if we want to remain healthy and successful. We are NOT anti development. We all know change is necessary to remain relevant and thriving towards the future. It has been a long previous 12 months, but we are still here and will remain strong for as long as it takes to prevent this exchange from occurring. Please join your colleagues in Medina County and throughout northeastern Ohio, including NOACA, and support HB 155. What we are simply seeking is thoughtful, thorough and reasonable solutions. We remain hopeful, positive and thank you for consideration regarding our future.