

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Stephen Hambley  
The Honorable Don Manning  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Hambley and Representative Manning:

The legislation to amend eminent domain laws under House Bill 476, is of great concern to the Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). If passed, this bill will not only take away the ability to utilize eminent domain for recreational trails, it will prohibit park districts from planning for and building important infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists in the future. Walking and biking are primary modes of transportation for a great number of people in Ohio, and House Bill 476 will put local park districts at a disadvantage in providing safe and connected infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The TMACOG “On the Move – 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan” contains numerous trails that would help make connections in the statewide bicycle network and are important pieces of community and regional trail systems. The local park districts in the TMACOG area have never used eminent domain for a trail project. However, it is of vital importance that park districts have the ability to use eminent domain for the overall good of the communities and constituents they serve.

The Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee of TMACOG strongly opposes House Bill 476.

Thank you for your service and time.

Sincerely,

David Gedeon, AICP, Vice President of Transportation  
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

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