

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-

2163

A RESOLUTION TO URGE GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO END THE ROUTE 23 CONNECT STUDY AND SUPPORT AN IMPROVED HIGHWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN NORTHWEST OHIO AND COLUMBUS.

WHEREAS, leaders in our region were optimistic when ODOT announced in 2021 that it would conduct the Route 23 Connect Study to determine the feasibility of options to create a free-flowing connection between the Toledo and Columbus regions; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, of which the City of Fremont is a member, has long advocated for an improved highway connection to Columbus; and

WHEREAS, this project is essential to our regional partner organizations, and the City is disappointed in the decision of ODOT to end the study more than a year early with no plans for a long-term solution for improved travel on this corridor; and

WHEREAS, a free-flowing connection would allow our region to benefit from tremendous economic development occurring in central Ohio, including the \$20 billion planned investment by Intel; and

WHEREAS, improvements to this route will also support northwest Ohio's economy by providing central Ohio businesses and consumers with better access to markets in this area and beyond and ease of travel to the City's recreation and tourism experiences; and

WHEREAS, this corridor is the only connection linking an Ohio metro city with Columbus that requires travelers to go through a stoplight, let alone the 38 stoplights between Waldo and the I-270 beltway around Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Route 23 already carries 30 percent more traffic the roadway was designed to accommodate and truck traffic is expected to double by 2050; and

WHEREAS, research shows over the next 20 years, central Ohio is expected to grow by more than 1 million households and 1 million jobs, and options to improve safety and travel times on this corridor will only become more limited and more costly with this growth; and

WHEREAS, the planned opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge in 2024 will create economic opportunities for Ohio, and plans are needed to improve this route to avoid interrupting the flow of commerce and exports between Ohio and Canada; and

WHEREAS, this route is an important component of the anticipated extension of the Interstate 23/24/75 corridor, and increasing congestion will impede the movement of travelers and goods between Ohio and the southeastern United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREMONT, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. A clogged U.S. 23 is a growing obstacle to Northwest Ohio's economy.

SECTION 2. The City opposes the early termination of the Route 23 Connect study and urges ODOT and Governor DeWine to work with our regional leaders to identify a long-term solution.

SECTION 3. The City supports development of an improved highway connection to Columbus

SECTION 4. The Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, the Director of ODOT, and our community's state senators and representatives.

SECTION 2. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code of Ohio.

SECTION 3. The immediate operation of the provisions of this resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Fremont. Said emergency being the need for Fremont City Council to urge the Governor to reconsider the plan.

This resolution, provided it receives a two-thirds yea or nay vote of all the members elected to the Fremont City Council, is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council of the City of Fremont, approval by the Mayor, and publication and posting as required by law.

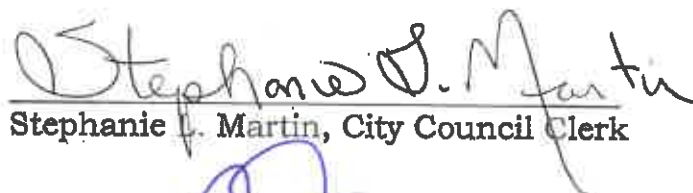


Jamie Hafford
President of Council

PASSED: 9-15-22

Effective date: 9-15-22


YEAS: 6 NAYS: 1


Stephanie L. Martin, City Council Clerk


Daniel R. Sanchez, Mayor

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Approved as to form:


James F. Melle, Director of Law
City of Fremont, Ohio