

## RESOLUTION 23-07

### RESOLUTION OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS URGING GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TO RECONVENE THE ROUTE 23 CONNECT STUDY AND SUPPORT AN IMPROVED HIGHWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN NORTHWEST OHIO AND COLUMBUS

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Ohio met in regular session at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, Ottawa County Courthouse, Port Clinton, Ohio on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023, at the regular place of meeting with the following members present:

Mark W. Stahl      Donald A. Douglas      Mark E. Coppeler

Commissioner Douglas moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, leaders in our region were encouraged when the Ohio Department of Transportation (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 our northern regions and Columbus regions; and

WHEREAS, this project is a priority for our county partner organizations, and we are concerned with 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 important 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 northwest Ohio and beyond, and ease of travel to our 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; in fact, an astonishing 38 stoplights and growing between Waldo and the I-270 beltway around Columbus; and

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

WHEREAS, research shows that 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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Commissioners of Ottawa County, Ohio supports the study and development of an improved highway connection path for our two regions and desires ODOT and Governor DeWine to work with stakeholders to identify an acceptable long-term solution.

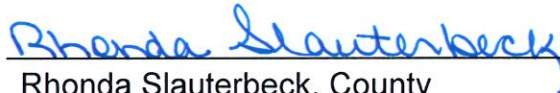
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this Board of County Commissioners hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of its committees, if any, which resulted informal action were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

Commissioner Coppeler seconded the Resolution and the vote on motion resulted as follows:

Vote on Motion: Mark W. Stahl, yes; Donald A. Douglas, yes; Mark E. Coppeler, yes.

I, Rhonda Slauterbeck, County Administrator/Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Ottawa County, Ohio hereby do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board under said date and as same appears in Commissioners' Journal, Volume 108.

  
Rhonda Slauterbeck, County  
Administrator/Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners  
Ottawa County, Ohio

C: TMACOG