



## Ohio's Transportation Budget: Investing in Our Roads and Bridges

When the Ohio Senate passed the state's biennial transportation budget, it was one of the most significant pieces of legislation that will be enacted during the two-year legislative cycle (132<sup>nd</sup> GA). It provides funding for the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, as well as many infrastructure projects throughout the state.

In total, House Bill 26 **invests nearly \$8 billion into the construction, maintenance and safety of Ohio's roads, bridges and highway system.**

Among the bill's provisions was a codification and renewal of the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program. Initially sponsored by the Senate a few years ago, this popular program requires the Ohio Department of Transportation to partner with local governments to repair local bridges. This cooperation **gets local governments the help they need for important infrastructure improvements**, directing resources back to local communities and ensuring that our bridges are safe.

The Senate also sought to **improve government efficiency**, to help ensure that we are protecting your tax dollars and doing more with less. That is why House Bill 26 included key provisions allowing townships and municipalities to enter into agreements to share services as it relates to maintenance, repair and the improvement of their roads by creating joint road districts.

The bill also included a pilot program that reduces registration fees for high-volume commercial vehicle fleets. This will **encourage businesses to move their fleets to Ohio and could result in more job opportunities and economic development** in our state's trucking industry.

Committee deliberations on the transportation budget were recorded and made available on the Ohio Channel online and on local public access broadcast stations. **Open and accountable government** is a priority for the Senate. Any time the state is spending billions of taxpayers' dollars, the process should be accessible by We the People. For the first time ever, the Ohio Senate was able to bring the inner workings of a transportation budget process to Ohioans everywhere, even in their own homes.

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