



# News Release

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## **CCAO Applauds the Passage of Historic Transportation Budget Bill**

COLUMBUS, OH – The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) thanks Governor Mike DeWine and bipartisan legislative leadership in the Ohio Senate and Ohio House for the passage of House Bill 23, a historic state transportation budget that provides more funding for county infrastructure needs and includes a vital provision to raise “force account” limits for work performed by the staff of the county engineer. House Bill 23 increases federal funding for county bridges by \$30 million in each fiscal year and continues the current state motor fuel tax allocation to counties and other local governments. The force account provision raises the monetary limits for work by the county engineer from \$30,000 per mile to \$70,000 per mile for highway construction and reconstruction, and from \$100,000 to \$233,000 for bridge construction and reconstruction. These limits are increased annually, based on ODOT's construction cost index, with a 5% cap.

“CCAO applauds the General Assembly’s dedication to resolving the force account issue,” said CCAO President and Henry County Commissioner Glenn Miller. “In this era of escalating construction inflation, it is absolutely vital that counties have the ability to make timely and cost-effective repairs to our roads and bridges,” he added. “Counties are responsible for the upkeep of 29,000 center line road miles and over 26,000 bridges, and House Bill 23 strengthens the state-county partnership that allows us to provide this essential government service,” he added.

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio advances effective county government for Ohio through legislative advocacy, education and training, technical assistance and research, quality enterprise service programs, and greater citizen awareness and understanding of county government.

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