



April 8, 2014

MEMO

TO: MEMBERS OF HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: BRAD COLE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

SUBJECT: INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY ON HB 494

Chairman Blair, Vice Chair Anielski, and Ranking Minority Member Clyde, my name is Brad Cole, and I am here representing the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). CCAO is an interested party on HB 494 at this time.

CCAO is the process of examining HB 494 which would permit two or more boards of commissioners to undertake a regional transportation improvement project. The bill would permit two or more boards of commissioners and the county engineers of those counties to form the governing board of a regional transportation improvement project composed of one commissioner and one county engineer from each participating county. The counties participating in a regional transportation improvement project would be required to enter into a cooperative agreement that would spell out:

- A description of the existing transportation system including deficiencies in that system
- A list of transportation projects to be completed including a general description of each improvement, schedules for completion of each improvement, and the cost of each improvement
- Policies regarding the operations and reporting requirements of the governing board
- The number of years that the agreement is to be in effect
- Any other terms that the board of commissioners considers necessary to communicate the intentions of the cooperative agreement

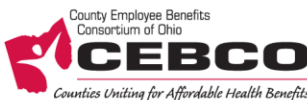
The bill proposes that each board of commissioners proposing to undertake a regional transportation improvement project hold a public hearing before adopting a resolution approving the agreement.

HB 494 provides various traditional funding sources for the financing of transportation projects including an additional motor vehicle license tax which the commissioners could adopt subject to approval by voters in all or part of each county entering into the cooperative agreement.



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CCAO is intrigued by the concept of permitting counties to enter into regional cooperative agreement for the purpose of constructing public improvements that involve more than one county. CCAO has worked with groups of county commissioners on a regional basis in the past in order to address specific transportation projects that have a regional impact. CCAO plans later this month to bring this bill before a standing committee of CCAO for the purpose of taking a position on HB 494.

CCAO is open to exploring options with the General Assembly for addressing transportation projects on a regional basis, and, of course, we are constantly searching for legislative mechanisms that will permit counties to finance such improvements.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to testify as an interested party on HB 494. I would be happy to try to answer any questions from members of the committee at this time.