I-73 STUDY AND RFP OVERVIEW

HB54 allocates $1.5 million to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study on the potential development of an Interstate 73 (I-73) corridor, running primarily along U.S. Route 23, extending from Toledo to Chesapeake, Ohio. The final report is due by December 31, 2026.

Key Objectives:

- Provide an objective, transparent analysis of what it would take to construct I-73.
- It's important to remember that this is not a commitment to build the interstate—but strictly informational. It arms the state's decision makers with data so they can execute accordingly.
- The study assesses county-by-county impacts and will identify pinch points and areas of concern.
- The findings of this study will help guide future transportation investment decisions using accurate, comprehensive data.
- Ultimately, it helps determine where scarce funding can be most effectively allocated.

Current Status:

- The I-73 feasibility study is in ODOT's programmatic planning.
- This is an open and active solicitation—ODOT is seeking consultant support to meet the legislative directive.

Background and Context

- In early 2025, ODOT released the Strategic Transportation Development Analysis, which examined demographics, economic development, transportation systems, and travel needs over the next several decades. The study evaluated priority corridors, including U.S. 23 between Toledo and Columbus, and Columbus to the Kentucky/West Virginia border. The analysis made several recommendations for Ohio's priority corridors. Some of the actionable recommendations are:
- Initiate a feasibility analysis and initial project development activities that will position ODOT to increase capacity and manage access on US23 from I-270 to south of Circleville.
- The I-73 feasibility study will study a similar area to the Development Analysis.

Scope of Services for the Feasibility Study

- The scope of services for the study, as outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP) includes:
    - **Capacity Analysis:** Assessing current and projected traffic volumes to determine the need for capacity enhancements.

- **Access Management:** Evaluating existing access points and proposing strategies to manage access, such as consolidating driveways and modifying traffic signals, to improve safety and traffic flow.
- **Environmental and Community Impact Assessments:** Identifying potential environmental impacts and engaging with local communities to gather input and address concerns.
- **Economic Impact Analysis:** Assessing the potential economic benefits of the proposed improvements, including impacts on local businesses and regional development.
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Conducting a detailed analysis to compare the costs of proposed improvements with the anticipated benefits, ensuring the feasibility of the project.
- **Preliminary Design Concepts:** Developing initial design concepts for proposed improvements to provide a visual representation of potential changes.

- This comprehensive approach aims to provide a thorough evaluation of the proposed I-73 corridor, ensuring that all aspects of the project are carefully considered before moving forward.