

October 11, 2017

Chairman Tuma and Members of the Public Works Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of **Ordinance 2017-0003 Motor Vehicle License Tax**.

The Construction Employers Association, (CEA) is a multi-trade association of 160 construction related companies, based in Cleveland. Since 1916, CEA has represented the best in commercial and industrial construction. The contractors CEA represents employ roughly 7,000 skilled tradespersons and 1,500 office/management personnel in Northeast Ohio.

CEA has been and will continue to be active in safety training, mentorship programs, labor relations, diversity and inclusion efforts, and promotion of industry best practices.

CEA agrees with the experts in the field you have heard from. Their data illustrates the need for repairing and maintaining our transportation system. We believe it is important to maintain that system for the traveling public and businesses that want to work and grow here. Since fees were enacted in 1987, the overall economy has experienced significant inflation. For instance, according to the Associated General Contractors of America, construction material costs have increased more than 200% since the current fee level was put in place.

We are pleased that many of our contractors and their employees make Northeast Ohio home. They earn and spend their money within our region. They and the companies they work for pay taxes in our region.

The funding provided through this legislation will provide more opportunities for government agencies to effectively coordinate and manage projects. The County can lead efforts when municipalities are not certified by ODOT and/or the County can provide matching funds to complete projects. Effective coordination and project management are keys to completing quality construction projects.

This legislation will improve our infrastructure which in turn improves our County as a whole.

Respectfully,



Chief Executive Officer
Construction Employers Association