

Group: “Farms not Freeways”

By Gary Budzak - December 15, 2025

Residents who attended the Dec. 8 Brown Township Board of Trustees meeting may have grabbed a button. One of the buttons said, “Farms Not Freeways NO-HWY.com.”

Going to the website indicated on the button, it reads, No New Highway. Stop the US-23 to I-71 Connector.

A joint study the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission, at the direction of the Ohio General Assembly, is looking at a connector, most likely a toll road, to shave minutes off of travel time for motorists and truckers. More than 200 area residents filled the hall on Dec. 8 to learn about the plan and to voice their opposition.

“ODOT already said it — ‘A new highway isn’t the answer.’ Let’s hold them to it!” said NO-HWY.com. “ODOT and OTIC are once again exploring plans for a new highway through our community — despite the previous Route 23 Connect Study concluding that such a project was not recommended.”

Quoting again from the website: “Per ODOT’s own Route 23 Connect Study:

- All proposed concepts would substantially impact natural and cultural resources.
- There would be minimal to no benefit to the local community.
- Costs were at least three times greater than the anticipated benefits.
- None of the proposed build concepts can be reasonably implemented.

“So why are the State and ODOT now suggesting a new highway is a good idea? What changed? If they are backtracking on their own study, how can we trust any of their studies?” said No New Highway.

Four suggestions were made by the site to oppose the project: Tell ODOT no, see Facebook for updates at No Route 23 Connect, contact officials, and get a \$10 yard sign.

“We’re committed to protecting our rural community by stopping a proposed freeway in northern Delaware and southern Marion and Morrow counties,” NO-HWY.com’s Facebook page. “Join us to demand improvements to US 23 — not a destructive new highway.”

The Facebook page had recent posts about opposition by Buckeye Valley Local Schools, as well as Brown and Oxford townships.

“This initiative is advancing quickly,” said No New Highway. “ODOT is currently accepting public input, and the study is expected to be completed by October 1, 2026 — meaning now is the time to make our voices heard. Your input matters. Join us in raising awareness and

standing together to oppose the construction of a new highway. Let's protect our community and send a clear, unified message."