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### **Statement from FOR Ohio on state transportation budget**

(Columbus, OH) — The following statement can be attributed in whole or in part to Curt Steiner, a spokesman for Fix Our Roads Ohio (FOR Ohio):

“As the April 1 deadline approaches for adoption of the next biennium’s Ohio transportation budget, we are encouraged to see large bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate agree that a revenue increase is needed to maintain and improve state and local roads and bridges.

“Our coalition has made the case that Ohio sorely needs a substantial increase in its motor fuels tax, a fee paid by users and one that is constitutionally guaranteed to be applied only for roadways.

“Only a substantial increase in the gas tax will provide a meaningful and sustainable revenue stream to repair our roads and bridges, keep them maintained, and make the improvements necessary to ensure safety, support economic activity and enhance the daily lives of Ohio citizens.

“As House and Senate negotiators meet to produce a final bill for consideration, we encourage policy makers to remember that funding for our local roads and bridges is tied directly to the motor fuel tax. Heavy borrowing by the state in recent years to fund state highways has not helped counties, townships and municipalities with their deficient roadways. Without a substantial increase in the gas tax, our local roads and bridges will continue to decay as revenue fails to keep up with the effects of inflation since 2005, the last time Ohio’s gas tax was adjusted.

“On January 15 of this year, our coalition issued a [case statement](#) to policy makers calling for a meaningful increase in our primary funding source for roadways—an increase high enough to get the job done, and one in line with surrounding states. The plan introduced by the DeWine Administration in February met these guidelines and our coalition strongly supports it. As final decisions are made, we ask the General Assembly to work closely with the Administration and adopt a budget that adequately serves our needs at the state and local levels for years to come.”

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*FOR Ohio is a growing statewide coalition of local government officials, transportation industry stakeholders, local chambers of commerce, and others. The group is working to educate Ohio citizens and policymakers about the critical needs of Ohio’s transportation infrastructure and is advocating for funding solutions that will provide long term, smart investment in Ohio’s transportation future.*