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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):

“Our Coalition expresses deep appreciation to the Governor, leaders of the General Assembly and many legislators of both parties in the House and Senate for reacting quickly and decisively to news of a looming crisis in state and local transportation funding.

“The bipartisan agreement up now up for floor votes in the House and Senate will help ODOT avoid a crippling financial shortfall, fund needed maintenance and provide funding for priority highway improvement projects. The motor fuel tax adjustment will also provide welcome increases in funding for local roadways — the first such increases in funding for local jurisdictions since the last Ohio motor fuel tax adjustment in 2005.

“Our coalition believes a higher increase, with an indexing provision to offset the effects of inflation, would have been even better for Ohio in the long run, but there’s no question that today’s significant bipartisan package to increase roadway support and additional funding for public transit is a very positive outcome for our state’s economy and the day-to-day lives of our citizens.”

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*FOR Ohio is a 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.*