April 15th, 2026

Board Resolution number 04152026

The Buckeye Valley Local Schools Board of Education is writing to formally express the District's opposition to the proposed U.S. 23 connector project planned to run through portions of Buckeye Valley Local School District.

After careful consideration of the potential impacts of this project, the District has significant concerns regarding how the connector would affect our district and the community as a whole. With the new focused area of study in Morrow County, we would like to reinforce our previously passed resolution on November 19th, 2025, that urges ODOT to move forward with the findings from their 2024 study that improving the 23 corridor was the most feasible option to improve safety and travel times from Waldo to Columbus via US 23.

A few points we would like to highlight are as follows:

First, the proposed route would create substantial disruption to established school bus routes. The introduction of a major connector roadway through currently rural areas will likely require rerouting, increase transportation times, and raise safety concerns for students. Reliable and efficient transportation is essential to our educational mission, and this project threatens to complicate that already challenging responsibility.

Second, we are concerned about the negative impact on property values in the affected areas. The construction of a major roadway through residential and agricultural land could diminish home values, directly affecting many of the families we serve. As well as losing property tax that the school depends on to provide the highest quality education our students deserve.

Third, the loss of prime farmland is a serious concern. Agriculture is a foundational part of Morrow County's economy and identity. The permanent conversion of productive farmland to roadway infrastructure would represent a significant and irreversible loss.

For these reasons, the Buckeye Valley Local School District respectfully urges the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Legislature to reconsider the proposed U.S. 23 connector route through Morrow County. We ask that you carefully weigh the long-term impact for our students, families, and community before moving forward.

Mary Kate Pembroke, Board President Mary Kate Pembroke

Troy Jeffery, Board Vice-President

Laura Bain, Board Member 

Donald Dicke, Board Member 

Jeni Reely, Board Member 

Ric Stranges, Superintendent 

The Board of Education of the Buckeye Valley Local School District held a public meeting, at the Delaware Area Career Center, Delaware, Ohio 43015 at 6:30 p.m. on April 15th, 2026 with the following members in attendance:

Resolution was moved by: Mr. Dicke

And seconded by: Mrs. Reely