

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmembers Prentice and Soyars, County Executive Shapiro Introduce Pipeline Emergency Response Fund Legislation

On October 29, 2018, Summit County Councilmembers Paula Prentice and Michael Soyars joined Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro to introduce legislation that will create a Pipeline Emergency Response Fund. The Fund will provide additional money for planning, training, and equipment necessary to respond to a natural gas pipeline-related emergency. The legislation was proposed in response to concerns raised by citizens of Green and New Franklin regarding the completion of the Nexus Pipeline. Last week, Nexus announced the natural gas pipeline is now carrying two-thirds of its 1.5 billion cubic feet per day capacity.

“The Nexus Pipeline is now pumping natural gas through two of our Summit County communities and we must be proactive in preparing for the risks this pipeline presents to the health and safety of residents,” said Executive Shapiro.

Following meetings with public safety officials, Executive Shapiro and Councilmembers Prentice and Soyars determined the best course of action was to utilize the new property tax revenue that will be generated by the pipeline and paid for by the pipeline owner to fund additional safety planning, training and equipment for pipeline failures or similar emergencies.

“My constituents in Green are rightly concerned about the potential consequences of a natural gas pipeline running through their backyards,” said Councilmember Prentice. “This legislation will enable us to prepare for a pipeline crisis using the tax revenue created by the project.”

The legislation will apportion money to be used by the County’s Special Operations Response Team (SORT), or to grants for local police and fire departments as recommended by the SORT Board. The pipeline will first be taxed in 2019, and collected in 2020. The taxes collected in tax year 2020 will then be appropriated in 2021 for use by SORT. Each year, funds paid in the prior year for taxes on the Nexus Pipeline would be budgeted for emergency preparedness.

“As the Council representative for New Franklin, I am committed to the health and safety of my constituents,” said Councilmember Soyars. “We have to be prepared for a potential pipeline malfunction or related disaster and this legislation will allow us to do just that.”

Summit County Council will discuss the legislation in the Public Safety Committee on November 5, 2018.

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