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## Older suburbs ready to put on pressure

### More-established municipalities feel left out, plan lobbying effort next month

By Jon Craig  
Enquirer Columbus Bureau

**COLUMBUS** - For the first time, government officials from older established suburbs - such as Madeira, Milford and Mount Healthy - are banding together to push their agenda at the state capital.

A dozen municipal leaders voiced their concerns on the steps of the Statehouse on Wednesday, saying they will lobby state lawmakers once they return from a summer recess next month.

Kimberly Gibson, director of the Ohio First Suburbs Consortium that is leading the lobbying effort, said its 63 members aim to make their voices heard "to make our communities a priority."

Older, more-established municipalities no longer get sufficient financial help from the state for roads, bridges, water lines and sewers enjoyed by newer developments, she said.

Gibson said the so-called "first suburbs" don't benefit from assistance directed at blighted central cities, nor do they enjoy the continued growth of exurbs that have room to keep growing, such as West Chester or Mason.

The group is lobbying for policy changes such as more flexible building codes to accommodate older buildings, or more generous tax credits to help rehabilitate older buildings.

It also asked for more money during this year's state budget talks, Gibson said, "but so did many others."

Among those joining the news conference from Southwest Ohio was Tom Moeller, city manager in Madeira. He said his community can't afford to spend \$750,000 a year on new pavement and other road repairs when it receives about \$300,000 from the state in annual motor vehicle fees and gas taxes.

#### LOCAL OHIO FIRST SUBURBS CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

Charles Kamine, mayor, Amberley Village

Matthew T. McBride, city councilman, Deer Park

Christopher Anderson, community development director, Forest Park

Tom Moeller, city manager, Madeira

Loretta Rokey, city manager, Milford

Gary Blomberg, mayor, Montgomery

Bill Kocher, safety services director, Mount Healthy

Mark Wendling, city manager, Silverton

Jeff Tulloch, economic development director, Springdale

Peggy Brickweg, council member, St. Bernard

David J. Savage, mayor, Wyoming

Michael T. Hinnenkamp, administrator, Springfield Township

Jack Cameron, assistant to the mayor, Evendale

Thomas Todd, mayor, Glendale

Alan D. Zaffiro, mayor, Golf Manor

David Moore, village administrator, Greenhills

LaVerne Mitchell, mayor, Lincoln Heights

Jim Brown, mayor, Lockland

"It's undoable. We don't have the tax base," Moeller said.

"That's a very important component of what government does," he said. "Every community is in the same situation. We cannot afford to spend that much on roads when we have other services to provide." The city of 9,000 has an annual budget of \$4.5 million.

Moeller said it's unfair to saddle his city with the cost of replacing original infrastructure that is used by nonresidents as well. "It's not just our residents using our roads."

The consortium plans to host a November candidates' forum for those running for governor next year. With legislators term-limited and statewide elections next year, the group wants to get a head start on making its agenda known.

"It's the calm before the storm. There's a gubernatorial race and a sea change in the legislature that we want to capitalize on," Gibson said.

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