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**State leaders want to increase money for local roads, other projects**  
*Proposal passed by the Senate would push issue before Ohio voters in May*

By Chrissie Thompson

COLUMBUS — Local road and water-supply construction projects would receive a 39 percent increase in state money in the next decade under a proposal that is likely to come before Ohio voters in May.

The proposal to increase bonding to pay for the increase passed the Ohio Senate Tuesday, 31-0, and on Wednesday received the support of the governor, construction unions and local government groups. But Democrats and community governments say they still wish Republicans would agree to give back some of the other sources of state money cut from local governments during Ohio's post-recession budget balancing.

The bonding provides money to the Ohio Public Works Commission, which currently divvies up \$150 million each year to work on roads, bridges and sewers all over the state. The bonding is up for its decennial renewal and does not involve a tax increase.

Under the proposal that is headed to the Ohio House, the state would ask voters for permission to increase bonding to provide \$175 million annually in the first five years and \$200 million in each of the next five years. Nineteen districts of cities, townships and counties around the state would decide how to use the money. For example, Green Township used PWC money to rebuild Bluebird Lane, supplementing \$300,000 from the state with \$300,000 from the township to carry out the project, said Matthew DeTemple, executive director of the Ohio Township Association.

"Rebuilding Ohio. That's exactly the way I look at it," Gov. John Kasich told reporters on Wednesday. "Put some nice music in your car, because you're going to be stuck all over the state trying to get through places as we shine up the state."

Kasich said the increase in PWC money would complement the decision to boost spending on road improvements by bonding against the turnpike.

**Article continued here:**

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