



Board of Directors

Susan Tomasky
Chair

William R. Heifner
Vice Chair

Don M. Casto, III
Frank J. Cipriano
Elizabeth P. Kessler, Esq.
Jordan A. Miller, Jr.
Kathleen H. Ransier, Esq.
Dwight Smith
Terrance Williams

Elaine Roberts, A.A.E.
President & CEO

December 15, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Expression of Support for the Rickenbacker Inland Port FY 2017 FASTLANE Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We are pleased to provide this letter expressing our strong support for the Rickenbacker Inland Port Interstate Connector FASTLANE application, which includes adding a third through lane in each direction to the existing stretch of Alum Creek Drive along a 2.3 mile stretch between State Route 317 to the south and Groveport Road to the north. This is an important regional project that will add to the multi-modal infrastructure capacity, build regional capacity and employment in logistics, and will provide for the more efficiently and impactful movement of goods.

As the project sponsor, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) is very committed to this project. CRAA has partnered with Norfolk Southern Railway, the Franklin County Engineer's Office, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to assess critical improvements needed in the Rickenbacker Inland Port area. This application represents a package that addresses the area's transportation network in a comprehensive, multimodal manner. The Rickenbacker area has become one of the central drivers of growth, economic activity and employment in the region – supporting nearly 29,000 local jobs and an economic impact of nearly \$3 Billion annually.

This critical improvement focuses on increasing capacity along Alum Creek Drive, the north-south connection between Rickenbacker and I-270. A component of USDOT's National Primary Freight Highway System (PHFS) and a state-designated and federally-accepted National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Connector Route, Alum Creek Drive is a critical freight corridor for the region. The widening improvement will alleviate two sources of congestion: the increased traffic generated by the growing number of successful businesses and the increased regional truck traffic generated by increasing volumes at the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility.

By expanding our capacity along Alum Creek Drive, central Ohio's economic development opportunities will also grow, and this project and our region can continue to add to the thoughtful, efficient and appropriate use of our national transportation system.

CRAA offers our full support for the FASTLANE application. We appreciate your full and fair consideration for funding on this project, as well as your continued partnership as we work together to support Ohio's advantageous position as a cost-effective logistics and transportation location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elaine Roberts, A.A.E.
President & CEO