

Norfolk Southern Corporation One Constitution Avenue NE Washington, DC 20002 Darrell Wilson Assistant Vice President Government Affairs/Public Relations

December 15, 2016

United States Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to be writing to you on behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("Norfolk Southern") in support of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's FASTLANE Grant application for the **Rickenbacker Inland Port Interstate Connector.**

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA), in partnership with the Franklin County Engineer's Office (FCEO), proposes to expand the capacity of Alum Creek Drive, a component of USDOT's National Primary Freight Highway System and a state-designated and federally-accepted National Highway System Intermodal Connector Route. The proposal includes adding a third through lane in each direction to the existing stretch of Alum Creek Drive between State Route 317 to the south and Groveport Road to the north. The widening is part of previous investments to improve the flow of freight out of Rickenbacker to the interstate highway system, as well as the \$300 million Heartland Corridor public private partnership that offers efficient routing between the Port of Virginia and the Midwest. The proposed project addresses roadway congestion and allows Rickenbacker International Airport and the NS served Intermodal Facility to handle the increased commercial traffic resulting from the Heartland Corridor and the Panama Canal expansion.

By making the improvement to Alum Creek Drive, central Ohio's economic development opportunities will also grow. We offer our full support for the FASTLANE Grant application and thank you for your full and fair consideration for funding.

Sincerely

Darrell Wilson

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