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July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the Rickenbacker Inland Port BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express our strong support for the BUILD grant application submitted by the Franklin County Engineer's Office aimed at improving workforce access to employment sites and reducing congestion within the Columbus region's growing Rickenbacker Inland Port. This \$36 million investment is of great importance to the businesses, residents, and workers in both the urban and rural parts of the region. With the 25,000 employees currently working in the Rickenbacker area expected to more than double by 2040, ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable transportation for the workforce and reducing congestion is necessary for continued prosperity.

The Rickenbacker Inland Port Workforce Access project includes two major components:

1. **Alum Creek Drive:** Increasing lane capacity is necessary along this National Highway System Intermodal Connector Route to accommodate current and future congestion, which is projected to increase by 40 percent -- to more than 54,400 vehicles including 13,400 trucks by 2040.
2. **Trail Connection:** A new trail of fewer than two miles in length has the potential to connect the new shared-use path on Alum Creek Drive connecting the Rickenbacker Inland Port area to residential neighborhoods throughout Columbus.

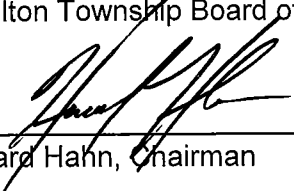
Infrastructure improvements to the Rickenbacker Inland Port were identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. The importance of this particular project is made evident by its multiple partners and leverage of public and private investments.

We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these critical improvements to the prosperity of our region's most important transportation asset, the Rickenbacker Inland Port.

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Sincerely,

Hamilton Township Board of Trustees



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