

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 28, 2019

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

Dear Madam Secretary,

We write to bring your attention to the competitive application submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the City of Columbus for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program.

We understand that the Columbus Crossroads project is a top priority for central Ohio and has the support of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Specifically, ODOT and the City of Columbus seek funding for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project, which focuses on the physical overlap of I-70 and I-71 that serves commuter and freight traffic from throughout the Midwest and across the country. The overlap carries an average of 130,000 vehicles a day, which exceeds the current design capacity by 50,000 vehicles. Phase 4 is vital to completing and implementing the comprehensive vision of the Columbus Crossroads Project.

Assistance from your agency would help replace aging infrastructure that will improve safety, reduce congestion for commuter and freight traffic, reconnect neighborhoods, and improve access to jobs and services in downtown Columbus.

Please give full and fair consideration to this request. If you have any questions, please contact our offices. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Rob Portman  
United States Senator