



41 South High Street • Columbus, OH 43215 • 614.224.6446

May 14, 2019

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 Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please consider this letter our support for the Columbus Crossroads multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in Downtown Columbus, Ohio.

The local partnership includes the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and City of Columbus as a joint INFRA grant application for Phase 4 of the project. Unfortunately, more than 1000 crashes have occurred in this project area between 2015 to 2017, which makes this location one of Ohio's top 10 high crash sites. The current design capacity of 50,000 daily vehicles now carries 130,000 per day, nearly triple the anticipated traffic volume.

The 70/71 overlap also lies in a "trench" which creates a physical barrier between the central business district of Columbus and neighborhoods south of Downtown. Consequently, Phase 4 is essential not only for improving safety and reducing congestion, but also improving accessibility for both commuters and pedestrians to essential services and over 100,000 jobs in Downtown Columbus.

We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the safety and prosperity of our region state, and resiliency of the national interstate highway system.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenda Bumgarner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Glenda Bumgarner
Senior Director
JobsOhio

cc: Mr. Dan DeBono, Chief Infrastructure Funding Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590