



**OHIO DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**
SAFETY • SERVICE • PROTECTION

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

**Mike DeWine, Governor
Thomas J. Stickrath, Director**

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May 10, 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:

I am writing to express the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) strong support for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and City of Columbus joint INFRA grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads is a \$1.3 billion, multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in downtown Columbus.

Phase 4 focuses on the physical overlap of I-70 and I-71, which serves commuter traffic from across central Ohio, in addition to freight from across the nation. The overlap carries 130,000 vehicles per day – including 17,100 commercial vehicles – and exceeds its design capacity by 50,000 vehicles, resulting in more than 1,000 crashes between 2015 and 2017. Also, this crossroad consistently ranks in Ohio's top 10 high crash locations.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project is a top priority for the City of Columbus, MORPC, ODOT, and ODPS. This vital project will improve the safety of the millions of drivers who drive through this area each year. We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements for improving the safety of Ohio's motoring public.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Stickrath
Director

cc: Mr. Dan DeBono, Chief Infrastructure Funding Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

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