



**Jay Hottinger**  
**Majority Whip**  
**31st District**

Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: (614) 466-5838  
[Hottinger@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Hottinger@ohiosenate.gov)

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February 24, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to you today to express my support for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project, which would change the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 Downtown Columbus.

Replacing outdated highway infrastructure through the Columbus Crossroads project would both improve freight movement across Ohio, and revitalize Downtown Columbus and its surrounding neighborhoods. Phase 4 specifically focuses on the physical overlap between I-70 and I-71, which serves commuter traffic across Central Ohio and freight across the Midwest. This phase costs approximately \$265 million, and is essential for improving safety and reducing both commuter and pedestrian congestion.

The Columbus Crossroads project has been identified as a top priority across the City of Columbus, the Central Ohio region, and the State of Ohio. However, the project cannot be completed without additional funding from the INFRA grants.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity for me to express my support for such an important project. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-466-5838 or by email at, [Hottinger@Ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Hottinger@Ohiosenate.gov).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Hottinger".

Jay Hottinger  
State Senator  
31<sup>st</sup> District