



**Brian J. Ellis**  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
Nationwide Realty Investors

February 18, 2020

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 extend my support for the Columbus Crossroads, \$1.3 billion, multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in Downtown Columbus.

On behalf of Nationwide Realty Investors, the real estate development affiliate of Nationwide, and in alignment with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and the City of Columbus joint INFRA grant application for the completion of Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project, I urge your support for this catalytic project of national, regional, and local importance.

This major investment to replace obsolete highway infrastructure and improve connectivity is critical to the state's continued growth, and Downtown Columbus' viability and long-term success.

As one of the region's largest employers, Nationwide has a vested interest in improving commuter traffic and efficiently and effectively moving more people throughout the region. In addition, as the owner and developer of the densely populated Arena District and Grandview Yard mixed-use developments, Nationwide Realty Investors is supportive of the Columbus Crossroads project as we continue to compete on a national scale to attract major employers to our premier business districts.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project has been identified as a top priority for the City of Columbus, the Central Ohio region, and the State of Ohio. The project cannot be completed without leveraging additional funding from the INFRA grants program. I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of our region and state, and the resiliency of the national interstate highway system; and urge your support for the application.

Sincerely,

**Brian J. Ellis**  
President & COO  
Nationwide Realty Investors