



Star House

Virginia Barney
City of Upper
Arlington - Retired

Phil Baum
Grange Insurance

Alycia Broz
Vorys, Sater,
Seymour and Pease
LLP

Neil Clark
Grant Street
Consultants

Kim Cuccia
NiSource

Natalie Furniss
Nationwide
Insurance

Mary Lou Hittle
Independent

Kimberly James
Schneider Downs

Kelly Kelleher
Nationwide
Children's Hospital

Meg Kelley
White Castle

Katie Wolfe Lloyd
The Dispatch
Printing Company

Matt McClellan
Miles-McClellan

Terry O'Connell
Time Warner Cable -
Retired

Melinda Swan
The Collective
Genius

Bill Walker
Huntington Bank

February 20, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of Star House, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) INFRA grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project and to urge your thoughtful consideration of this catalytic project of national, regional, and community importance.

Star House, an agency serving young people experiencing homelessness in Central Ohio, is pleased to support the Columbus Crossroads Project, which will greatly benefit Star House guests, ages 14-24. Columbus Crossroads will reconnect, restore, and revitalize Downtown Columbus and its surrounding neighborhoods. This project will not only create much-needed job opportunities for young people in Columbus, but also safer roadways for which this vulnerable population can use to travel.

Columbus Crossroads is a community-led \$1.3 billion, multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 and improve one of the key corridors of the National Primary Highway Freight System. These changes not only remove a major bottleneck for interstate commerce on these two important commercial arteries, the ongoing effort to improve the connection brings strong local and state support. Phase 4 of the Project, which costs approximately \$265 million, is essential for improving safety for commuters and pedestrians; reducing congestion; and enhancing access to essential services and more than 100,000 jobs in the region. 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. Importantly, it resolves major safety, congestion, and capacity issues for the two major interstates in the state.

We 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 we urge your consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

Ann Bischoff, CEO, Star House