



PAMA
P. O. Box 6327
Columbus, OH 43206-6327

Phone: 614-285-7138

Email:
parsonsarea@gmail.com

Executive Board Trustees
Kathy Green, President
Curtis Davis, Vice-President
Deb Roberts, Secretary
Carla Fountaine, Treasurer

Trustees
Carlie Boos
Aaron Kreaiss
Anne Heidrich
Cassandra Patterson
Jeff May, Jr
Lisa Snyder
Nohal Alshahal
Qasim Mahmood

Ex Officio Members
Marc Borst
Brian Higgins

Executive Director:
Bob Leighty

www.ParsonsArea.com

General Members Meeting:
1st Wednesday
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Columbus Public Library
Meeting Room
1113 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, OH 43206

Last updated: 12/12/2018

February 24, 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:

On behalf of the Parsons Area Merchants Association (PAMA), I am writing this letter to express our strong support and to reinforce the strong regional support for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) INFRA grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project.

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.

Phase 4 of this project focuses on the physical overlap of I-70 and I-71. The overlap serves commuter traffic from across the state and freight traffic 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. As a result, this area contains three of Ohio's top ten freeway crash locations. The overlap's trench also creates a physical barrier between Downtown Columbus and the neighborhoods south of the overlap, neighborhoods with businesses that are represented by our organization, PAMA. Leveraging this major investment to replace obsolete highway infrastructure, Columbus Crossroads will reconnect, restore, and revitalize Downtown Columbus and surrounding neighborhoods.

We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of our region, and the resiliency of the national interstate highway system; and we urge your consideration of the application. Thanks for listening. If I can provide any additional information or help in any way, please reach out to me on my personal phone 614.264.1446.

Sincerely,

Bob Leighty, Executive Director, PAMA