



# COLUMBUS CROSSROADS

PHASE 4 BUILD APPLICATION | JULY 19, 2018



## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The Columbus Crossroads Phase 4 project is widely supported by both public and private entities across Central Ohio, as demonstrated by the enclosed support letters.

At the time of application, more than 20 entities had provided written letters of support. Additional letters of support are anticipated and will be uploaded as received at:

[www.morpc.org/BUILD](http://www.morpc.org/BUILD)



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the City of Columbus for funding in the FY18 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant program.

I understand that Columbus, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, seeks funding for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. The main goal of the project is to improve the interstate 70/71 innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus, specifically by rebuilding the Front, High, Third Street, and Fourth Street bridges with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase of the project would also add an eastbound ramp into downtown and retaining walls to allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to a two-way street. Additionally, the city street grid would be improved upon to include complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Assistance from your agency would improve safety at three of Ohio's top crash locations, remove bottlenecks, and reduce the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent. Further, as the largest job center in Central Ohio, improving access to Downtown would allow Columbus to continue its economic growth and leverage existing infrastructure.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Jason Knox, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN  
OHIO  
COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,  
AND FORESTRY  
BANKING, HOUSING,  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
FINANCE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

July 13, 2018

Secretary Elaine Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation considers applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Program, I would like to draw your attention to the City of Columbus's application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project will improve the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor that passes through Downtown Columbus.

This phase of the project would improve the safety in Columbus, Ohio, the state's fastest growing metropolitan area. It would reduce the need for weaving and lane changes on these arteries by 70 percent, remove bottlenecks, reduce congestion, and improve the safety at three of the state's top 10 crash locations.

Further, the project would make improvements to the city grid, providing complete streets, streets aping, and wider sidewalks and caps on bridges that cross the interstates. This phase of Columbus Crossroads would facilitate the rebuilding of four bridges that cross the interstates (Front, High, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> street bridges), providing gateways and caps to better connect Downtown Columbus with the adjacent neighborhoods and would allow for improved bike and pedestrian connections. This project would also build a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and build retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to a two-way street and open up 1.5 acres of key real estate for development.

The Columbus Crossroads project has widespread regional support and this application is supported by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and a number of diverse community stakeholder and business entities. It was identified as a "top priority" for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that is working to advance strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio.

By investing in these key transportation advancements, this project would support economic development in this growing region. As you are considering applications for the BUILD Grant, I ask that you give this application full and fair consideration. For additional information, please contact [Leah\\_Hill@brown.senate.gov](mailto:Leah_Hill@brown.senate.gov) in my office.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

July 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for the Better Utilizing to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant proposal submitted by the City of Columbus for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live-work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Respectfully,

STEVE STIVERS

Member of Congress

Ohio 15th Congressional District

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1022 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PH: (202) 225-2015  
FAX: (202) 225-3529

CENTRAL OHIO DISTRICT OFFICE:  
3790 MUNICIPAL WAY  
HILLIARD, OH 43026  
PH: (614) 771-4968  
FAX: (614) 771-3990

SOUTHEAST OHIO DISTRICT OFFICE:  
104 E. MAIN STREET  
LANCASTER, OH 43130  
PH: (740) 654-2654  
FAX: (740) 654-2482

SOUTHWEST OHIO DISTRICT OFFICE:  
69 N. SOUTH STREET  
WILMINGTON, OH 45177  
PH: (937) 283-7049  
FAX: (937) 283-7052



JOYCE BEATTY

OHIO, 3RD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3503

133 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4324-PHONE  
(202) 225-1984 FAX

471 E. BROAD STREET, SUITE 1100  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
(614) 220-0003-PHONE  
(614) 220-5640-FAX

Beatty.house.gov

July 18, 2018

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:

I write to draw your attention to the City of Columbus's grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads Project. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders have collaborated to develop this vision over the last decade.

If awarded, the grant will improve the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus, thereby increasing safety at three of Ohio's top ten crash locations. The improvements will decrease the need for lane changes by an estimated seventy percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and significantly reduce traffic congestion. In addition, Phase 4 will rebuild four bridges across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads Project is a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) Initiative. This grant is imperative to transforming and improving the infrastructure in Central Ohio. The upgrades will undoubtedly make Columbus a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I respectfully request that the Department of Transportation give full and fair consideration to this grant application.

Sincerely,



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress, OH-03



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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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July 17, 2018  
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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express our strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

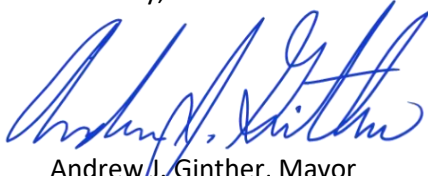
Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.



Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor  
City of Columbus

July 19, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express Columbus City Council's strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. Not only does this project improve safety on the mainline interstates at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, Phase 4 includes significant upgrades to the city grid including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Decades ago the neighborhood immediately north of downtown, the Short North, was cut off by I-670. Pedestrians would avoid traveling from downtown to this underutilized commercial stripe except by car. With visionary leadership from public and private sectors, Columbus came together to cap the highway, including infrastructure for commercial development. Today, the Short North is the most popular visitor destination in Columbus, contributing to Central Ohio's population and economic growth. The caps for S. High Street and S. Third Street could provide the same catalytic energy south of downtown that the N. High-670 cap created decades ago. Furthermore, this development would open 1.5 acres of valuable real estate to be reclaimed for development.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of our region, state, and country.

Sincerely,



Shannon G. Hardin  
Columbus Council President



**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | MICHAEL STINZIANO, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
ELIZABETH C. BROWN | MITCHELL J. BROWN | JAIZA PAGE | EMMANUEL REMY | PRISCILLA R. TYSON**

**CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC**

City Hall | 90 West Broad Street | Second Floor | Columbus OH 43215 | T (614) 645.7380 | F (614) 645.6164 | columbuscitycouncil.org





July 9, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the City of Columbus, Ohio grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), along with partners at the City of Columbus, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

ODOT, Columbus and MORPC have already invested nearly \$380 million in the I-70/I-71 Columbus Crossroads Project, including planning, engineering, right of way acquisition and construction of the phases completed to date. This includes \$285 million in Federal Transportation and Attributable funds, \$66 million in State Transportation funds, \$22 million in GARVEE monies, and more than \$5 million from Columbus.

The Columbus Crossroads BUILD Application is seeking \$20 million for construction costs for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads Project. The City of Columbus has requested ODOT be the primary recipient of any BUILD grant funding awarded, and ODOT has agreed to be the primary recipient of any BUILD grant funding awarded for Phase 4.

The total project cost for Phase 4 is estimated to be \$224 million. This total cost will be shared by ODOT and its partners. The City of Columbus has committed \$35.1 million along with \$9.3 million of Attributable Funds through MORPC towards Phase 4's construction. ODOT has committed \$159.3 million in State and Federal Transportation funds for Phase 4's design engineering, right of way acquisition, construction, and construction engineering. Of the \$159.3 million, ODOT has already expended \$15.3 million on design engineering and right of way acquisition.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, eliminate bottlenecks, and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live-work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of our region, state and the resiliency of the national interstate highway system.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Wray / 10". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large "J" and "W".

Jerry Wray  
Director





Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

T 614.228.2663  
TTY 1.800.750.0750

[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

July 12, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), I write to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. MORPC, along with the City of Columbus, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities, have collaborated to develop and advance the Columbus Crossroads project for more than a decade. We are excited about the opportunity to advance the Phase 4 components with funding from the BUILD program.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus, Ohio urbanized area, MORPC is comprised of more than 60 local governments and regional organizations in a 15-county area. The Columbus Crossroads project is included in our 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio.

Additionally, MORPC has supported the Columbus Crossroads project with a \$20 million commitment of federal attributable funding, specifically Surface Transportation Program (STP) / Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funds. This commitment includes \$9.3 million that will be provided for the Phase 4 project components.

The more than \$200 million investment is of great importance to businesses, residents, and workers in the region. As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential.

Columbus Crossroads casts an ambition vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, eliminate the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and improved streetscaping.

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

Rory McGuinness  
Chair

Karen J. Angelou  
Vice Chair

Erik J. Janas  
Secretary

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao

July 12, 2018

Page 2

We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation considers the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of our region and state and the resiliency of the national interstate highway system.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will - Murdock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William Murdock, AICP

Executive Director

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



July 11, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with County leadership and partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will enhance safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Boyce  
Board President, Franklin County



Marilyn Brown  
Commissioner, Franklin County



John O'Grady  
Commissioner, Franklin County

July 13, 2018

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:

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) supports the City of Columbus' grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region by improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at COTA, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Columbus 2020 and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities, have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade. The Columbus Crossroads project is also a top priority of the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative, led by Columbus 2020 and MORPC to advance strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio.

Improvements on these mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations and remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent. The project also removes bottlenecks and reduces congestion that affect COTA's commuter express service during rush hour. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements that support transit access and convenience, including streetscaping, complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates.

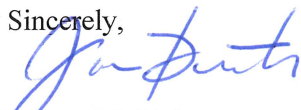
Specifically, Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3rd, and 4th streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features that connect Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. These bridges are used by more than 30 transit lines that provide more than 30,000 daily trips. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of high-value real estate to be reclaimed for transit-oriented development.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving commuter access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and COTA's transit assets. This investment will support the attractiveness of the C-pass program, an innovative initiative that launched in May 2018 that provides transit passes to Downtown workers through a partnership between downtown property owners, MORPC and COTA.

Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a transit-oriented, live-work environment. These investments support the economic vitality of our region, as demonstrated by the return on investment of similar projects at the I-670/US-23 and I-71/I-670 interchanges. These projects have fueled millions of dollars of commercial and community-serving development along North High Street and Long and Spring streets since their completion in 2003 and 2014.

COTA respectfully requests 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 upon which COTA relies.

Sincerely,



Joanna M. Pinkerton  
President/CEO  
Central Ohio Transit Authority





**COLUMBUS**  
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

July 9, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express our strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

As you may know, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority is responsible for many assets in central Ohio including John Glenn Columbus International Airport where passenger traffic has increased nearly 20 percent over the last three years. This application's improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety, remove bottlenecks and reduce congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping- connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. These improvements will be welcome by both our residents and visitors.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Nardone, C.M.  
President & CEO



July 13, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express our strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. It is sent on behalf of the board of trustees for Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, an association of 550 downtown Columbus property owners.

Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

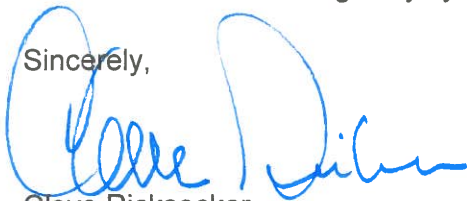


The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
July 13, 2018  
Page 2

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 85,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,



Cleve Ricksecker  
Executive Director

Cc: Executive Committee



# COLUMBUS STATE

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## COMMUNITY COLLEGE

July 9, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The purpose of this letter is to express our strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

As the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,



Shane S. Kirby, MBA  
Director, Grants Office  
Columbus State Community College



**Steve Allen, M.D., M.B.A., Chief Executive Officer**

July 13, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

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Nationwide Children's Hospital's main campus is situated adjacent to the principal intersection of I-70 and I-71. As the largest pediatric hospital in the country with 1.4 million patient visits annually, safe and efficient access to our campus is of paramount importance to our mission of serving children from Ohio and around the country.

Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top ten crash locations, remove the need for weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion. Nationwide Children's Hospital's Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center serves a 37 county region in Ohio. We strongly support highway projects that improve motor vehicle safety and reduce the incidence of crashes.

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Columbus is the largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, including nearly 12,000 employees at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus attract talented professionals.

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Best,

Steve Allen, MD



## **Ohio Contractors Association**

1313 Dublin Road • P.O. Box 909 • Columbus, Ohio 43216  
(614) 488-0724 • (800) 229-1388 • FAX (614) 488-0728 • [www.ohiocontractors.org](http://www.ohiocontractors.org)

July 13, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

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Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

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July 13, 2018  
Page 2

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Sincerely,



Christopher L. Runyan, P.E.  
President



**Ohio Contractors Association**



Character lives on.

German Village Society  
588 South Third Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-5754  
P | 614.221.8888  
F | 614.222.4747  
[www.germanvillage.com](http://www.germanvillage.com)

July 12, 2018  
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 BUILD Application**

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Sincerely,

Shiloh Todorov. Executive Director

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

John Barr  
Dennis Brandon  
Terri Dalenta  
Heidi Drake  
Greg Gamier  
Brittany Gibson  
Joanne Kesten  
Marie Logothetis  
Josh Miller  
Kurt Miller  
Jim Penikas  
Susan Sutherland  
Joshua Zimmerman





July 11, 2018

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 BUILD Application

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The purpose of this letter is to express our strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project. Columbus Crossroads casts an ambitious vision for the freeways and urban avenues that move through and connect the Columbus region, specifically improving the I-70/I-71 Innerbelt corridor through Downtown Columbus. The city, along with partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated to develop and implement this vision over the last decade.

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**19<sup>TH</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT**  
PARTS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY  
INCLUDING GAHANNA, NEW ALBANY,  
& WESTERVILLE

**COLUMBUS OFFICE**  
VERN RIFFE CENTER  
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 13<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0253  
PHONE: (614) 466-4847  
REP19@OHIOHOUSE.GOV



**COMMITTEES**

FINANCE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
INSURANCE

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Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Gonzales".

Anne Gonzales  
State Representative,  
19<sup>th</sup> House District

July 13, 2018

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Davis", is located at the bottom of the letter.

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

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Sincerely,



Kristin Boggs  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> House District

## 21<sup>st</sup> House District

Dublin, Worthington and  
Northwest Franklin County

## Contact Information

77 S. High Street, 13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
mike.duffey@ohiohouse.gov  
614.644.6030



## MIKE DUFFEY STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## Committees

Chairman, Higher Education  
Vice Chairman, JCARR  
Finance, Higher Ed. Subcom.  
Health Committee

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Columbus grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads Project. Columbus Crossroads is an important project for Central Ohio, and will improve major thruways and freeways in Columbus, with a specific focus on the I-70/I-71 corridor in Downtown Columbus. A diverse group of stakeholders, including the City of Columbus, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and many community and business leaders in the region have worked together to develop this plan, and are working to make improvements to our roads and freeways to reduce congestion and increase safety.

The planned improvements to the main interstates in Columbus will improve safety at several high-crash locations, reduce the need for weaving and excessive lane changes that cause erratic driving, reduce traffic congestion overall. They will also improve city streets in Columbus, and allow for a complete streetscape with wider sidewalks and other amenities.

This phase of construction will rebuild four heavily city bridges that traverse the interstate, and will make for easier connections between the Downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods. A new Eastbound entrance into Downtown will allow for the conversion of Livingston Avenue into a two-way street and free up highly desirable real estate on the Livingston corridor.

Downtown Columbus is the economic driver of our region, and is constantly growing. Many businesses are choosing to locate Downtown, and many workers are choosing to work and live Downtown in the many new residential buildings that have been completed in the last decade. Improving access to and from Downtown, including safe connections for pedestrians and bicyclists, is key to continuing the strong momentum and growth that makes the Downtown area an attractive place to work and live.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project was identified as a top priority for Central Ohio through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Duffey', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mike Duffey  
State Representative, 21<sup>st</sup> District  
Ohio House of Representatives





July 13, 2018

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 BUILD Application**

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Improvements on the mainline interstates will improve safety at three of Ohio's top 10 crash locations, remove the need for dangerous weaving and lane changes by 70 percent, as well as remove bottlenecks and reduce significant congestion and pollution. Additionally, the city street grid will receive major improvements including complete street facilities, wider sidewalks and caps on bridges crossing the interstates, and streetscaping.

Phase 4 includes rebuilding four bridges (Front, High, 3rd, and 4th streets) across the interstate trench with caps and gateway features connecting Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This phase also includes a new eastbound ramp into Downtown and construction of retaining walls that will allow Livingston Avenue to be converted back to two-way traffic and 1.5 acres of highly valued real estate to be reclaimed for development.

As the state's capital and largest job center in Central Ohio with more than 100,000 workers, Downtown Columbus is a major economic generator with significant growth potential. Improving access to Downtown is essential to ensuring that jobs remain in the center of the city and leverage existing infrastructure and transit assets. Additionally, improved bike and



pedestrian connections to neighborhoods will help to build a live work environment that will help Columbus continue to attract and retain talented professionals.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project is as a top priority for the region through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative. CAP is an initiative of Columbus 2020 and MORPC that prioritizes and advances strategic infrastructure investments across Central Ohio.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Adam C. Miller".

Adam C. Miller  
State Representative OH-17

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard D. Brown".

Richard D. Brown  
State Representative OH-20



**Ohio Senate**  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-8064

**Committees:**  
Judiciary - Chair  
Finance  
Finance - Higher Education Subcommittee  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Government Oversight and Reform  
Insurance and Financial Institutions

**Kevin Bacon**  
State Senator  
3rd District

July 9, 2018

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Bacon', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

Kevin Bacon  
State Senator  
Ohio Senate District 3





**Ohio Senate**  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-5981

**Committees:**  
Agriculture  
Finance, Higher Education - *Subcommittee*  
Health, Human Services and Medicaid  
Insurance and Financial Institutions  
Transportation Commerce and Workforce -  
*Vice Chair*

**Stephanie L. Kunze**  
State Senator  
16th District

July 9, 2018

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

**Re: Support for the Columbus Crossroads BUILD Application**

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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Kunze".

Stephanie Kunze  
State Senator  
16<sup>th</sup> District