



March 1, 2019

MEMBERS:

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Franklin County

Central Ohio Transit Authority

Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Columbus Partnership

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

Columbus Regional Airport Authority

Columbus State Community College

The Ohio State University

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Nationwide Children's

OhioHealth

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:

The Columbus Region Coalition (CRC) is a group of local governments, members of the business community, and other community stakeholders that make up the diverse interests of the Columbus Region. As the collective voice of our region, we urge you to support the Columbus Crossroads INFRA application.

Columbus Crossroads is a \$1.3 billion, multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in and improve freight movement across Ohio and the Midwest. We write this letter to (1) express our strong support for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and City of Columbus joint INFRA grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project; and (2) to urge your support for this catalytic project of national and regional importance.

Leveraging this major investment to replace obsolete highway infrastructure, Columbus Crossroads will benefit freight and industry located in the fringe urban and rural areas, commuters living outside the urbanized area, and patients who live in rural areas but require advanced medical care available in Columbus. ODOT, the City of Columbus, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated over the last decade to develop and implement this comprehensive vision.

Phase 4 focuses on the physical overlap of I-70 and I-71. The overlap serves commuter traffic from across Central Ohio, and it serves freight from across the Midwest. The overlap carries 130,000 vehicles per day – including 17,100 commercial vehicles – and exceeds its design capacity by 50,000 vehicles. Phase 4, which costs approximately \$200 million, is essential for improving safety and reducing congestion for commuters and pedestrians; improving access to essential services and more than 100,000 jobs in Downtown Columbus; and reconnecting the southern neighborhoods.

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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. However, this project cannot be completed without leveraging additional funding from the INFRA grants program. 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 respectfully urge your support for the application.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Ginther
Mayor
City of Columbus



Marilyn Brown
President
Franklin County Board of
Commissioners



Alex R. Fischer
President & CEO
Columbus Partnership



William Murdock
Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission



Don DePerro
President & CEO
Columbus Chamber
of Commerce



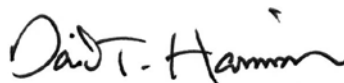
Charles D. Hillman
President & CEO
Columbus Metropolitan
Housing Authority



Joseph R. Nardone
President & CEO
Columbus Regional
Airport Authority



Joanna Pinkerton
President & CEO
Central Ohio
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