

Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio

BRIDGING THE GAP



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May 10, 2019

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:

Columbus Crossroads is a \$1.3 billion, multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in Downtown Columbus and improve freight movement across Ohio and Midwest. I write this letter to (1) express our strong support and to reinforce the strong regional 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.

The Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio provides prescription medicine at no cost for our underserved and vulnerable neighbors living at 200% or below the federal poverty level. The pharmacy sits at the crossroads of I-70 and Livingston Avenue. One of the goals of the project is to build a new southside retaining wall extending from the western edge of the I-70/I-71 trench eastward to the Fourth Street Bridge that allows for the conversion of Livingston Avenue into a more pedestrian and bike friendly two-way street. The vast majority of our clients do not have reliable transportation, and depend on public transit to reach us or walk. For them, the effect would be immeasurable.

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 state recently passed a transportation budget that generates more revenue through higher gas user fees and increased registration fees for local governments and electric vehicles. However, this project cannot be completed without leveraging additional funding from the INFRA grants program. We respectfully urge your support for the application.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Seifert, MS, RPh, BCGP

cc: Mr. Dan DeBono, Chief Infrastructure Funding Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation,
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590