



# CITY OF LANCASTER

**David L. Scheffler**

104 East Main Street

Room 101

Lancaster, OH 43130

740-687-6600 ~ 740-687-6698 (fax)

mayor@ci.lancaster.oh.us

May 9, 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 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 project of national and regional importance.

Leveraging this major investment to replace obsolete highway infrastructure, 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 improving access to essential services and more than 100,000 jobs in Downtown Columbus.

Completion of the Columbus Crossroads project has been identified as a top priority for the Central Ohio region and the State of Ohio. The state recently passed a transportation budget that generates more revenue; 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, the resiliency of the national interstate highway system and we respectfully urge your support for the application.

Sincerely,



David L. Scheffler, Mayor

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