

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

**COLUMBUS**  
**2020**

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Re: Support for the Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Columbus 2020, the regional economic development organization representing the 11 county Columbus Region, I offer this letter of support for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), City of Columbus and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application.

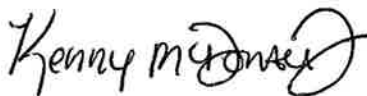
The City of Columbus and the Columbus Region are consistently among the top performing major markets for population and job growth in the Midwestern United States. Our central location offers access to nearly half of the US population within a one-day delivery, which has resulted in significant growth and investment in our logistics sector. To sustain our economic and population growth, we must continue to invest in key infrastructure projects that support the efficient and safe movement of both people and goods.

The Columbus Crossroads project is a prime example of the type of infrastructure investment our region has elevated as a priority. The \$1.3 billion multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in Downtown Columbus is designed to address safety and traffic flow factors that will directly impact many of those commuting to and from our downtown every day. The project would also improve the flow of freight across the Region and State, supporting the continued growth of one of our key sectors.

The Columbus Crossroads project also seeks to reconnect, restore and revitalize Downtown Columbus and surrounding neighborhoods. 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 high impact, comprehensive vision.

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 respectfully urge your support for this catalytic project of national and regional importance.

Sincerely,



**KENNY McDONALD, CEcD**

President and Chief Economic Officer

**Columbus 2020**, 150 South Front St, Suite 200 Columbus, OH 43215

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