

May 1, 2019

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

150 South Front St.
Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215
T (614) 225-0500
F (614) 225-9300
www.columbuspartnership.com

Re: Support for the Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Columbus Partnership, I write to 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. As a civic organization of over 70 community and business leaders, the Partnership is committed to creating a strong and vibrant region that attracts new industries and helps our existing businesses to flourish. Therefore, I urge you to support this catalytic project that is vital to the efficiency of our region's transportation network and its continued growth.

Transportation infrastructure is a critical aspect to advancing Central Ohio and our state's overall prosperity. The Columbus Region has made great strides in the past decade. As we continue to draw employers and young professionals from around the world, Columbus continues to serve as an economic driver for the state of Ohio. However, this population growth and economic development has come with an increased demand on our roadways. The high traffic volume of passenger vehicles and commercial freight flowing through our region supports businesses, provides jobs and ultimately drives our economy.

With so much dependent on the quality of our roads, bridges and highways, we must complete this multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71 in Downtown Columbus and improve freight movement across Ohio and Midwest. Investments made to Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads will serve to reconnect, restore and revitalize Downtown Columbus and surrounding neighborhoods. Phase 4 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.

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. We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of our region and state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO

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