

# TIMKEN

October 11, 2017

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

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The Timken Company  
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Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express The Timken Company's support for a TIGER grant application submitted by Stark, Carroll and Columbiana Counties in northeast Ohio related to completing the improvement of U.S. Route 30 to the eastern edge of the state. Timken, a global manufacturer of bearings, gear drives, belts and other mechanical products and systems, is headquartered in North Canton, Ohio, and had sales of \$2.7 billion in 2016.

Our three manufacturing plants in Ohio, which together employ 500 people, rely on a global supply chain to make products for customers worldwide. The network of transportation infrastructure that surrounds these plants is a critical component of their competitiveness. All three are dependent on Route 30 to receive supplies, ship our products to customers and as a major conduit bringing our associates to and from work.

The extension of Route 30 from Canton to Ohio's eastern edge would provide faster, less costly access to the eastern United States, as well as the Ohio River port of Wellsville. This would enable Timken to more effectively and efficiently deliver products from our Ohio plants to customers in the United States and around the world while also providing better connectivity to our suppliers.

The counties involved have clearly demonstrated their commitment to investing wisely in the completion of this project. Stark, Carroll and Columbiana Counties have formed a Regional Transportation Improvement Project under Ohio law to move Route 30 completion forward, and they have taken steps to build a strong public-private partnership to support the undertaking. The TIGER grant they seek is a critical component to launching the first phase of construction, a four-mile project to bypass downtown East Canton with a four-lane highway from Trump Avenue NE in Canton to Ohio Route 44.

I appreciate the strong commitment from President Trump to invest in America's critical infrastructure needs, and your leadership at the Department of Transportation will help advance this important goal for the country. I respectfully request that you approve a TIGER grant for the Route 30 project in Ohio, which will improve safety and help drive economic growth.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey R. Dafler