



October 16, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER Application for US 30 Corridor

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) supports the development of the US 30 Corridor through Stark and Columbiana Counties. The improvements to this corridor are crucial to develop a more sustainable economy for our region and to support the growing energy sector and other shale development activities.

This corridor is the cornerstone of economic development for our region as it will provide the capacity and safety needed to fully develop this east-west corridor with access to the 20th largest metro area in the nation, Pittsburgh. US 30 also connects manufacturing hubs with the port on the Ohio River at Wellsville. Expansion of this corridor is needed to provide efficient movement of freight across Ohio and the nation. With the construction of the ethane cracker in Monaca, Pennsylvania, expansion of this corridor is now more critical than ever to facilitate the efficient and safe movement of freight especially for the plastics and polymer industry.

OMEGA has identified this project as one of the top long-term priority projects in our Regional Transportation Plan. We support the efforts of the Regional Transportation Improvement Project District (Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties) to improve this corridor.

Thank you for your consideration to fund this critical Ohio freight corridor which will promote the development of a more sustainable and diverse economy for our region.

Sincerely,

OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION


Jeannette M. Wierzbicki, P.E.
Executive Director

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