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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

October 16, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation ("Department") evaluates applications for TIGER grant awards, I would like to draw your attention to the application submitted by Carrol, Columbiana, and Stark Counties for the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP). This effort, which serves Northeast Ohio, would help fund "state of good repair" work along US 30, Trump Avenue to SR 44 highway.

US 30 is an important part of the National Highway System stretching from Oregon to New Jersey. The RTIP project would improve the east/west route that links eastern portions of Stark County with Columbiana and Carroll counties and the eastern Ohio/western Pennsylvania/West Virginia region. US 30 is a four lane highway for most of the stretch from Chicago, Illinois to Canton, Ohio but it becomes a two-lane road around the eastern edge of the state. This application would support the first step of a larger process, creating a bypass that would divert heavy trucks from downtown East Canton. The project upgrades will improve local traffic patterns, increase foot and bike traffic, improve capacity, and enhance safety on US 30, a stretch of road that has considerably higher crash rates than averages statewide.

In addition, the RTIP project would have significant economic development impacts for the region. The project would spur economic growth in Northeast Ohio and the surrounding Appalachian Basin by providing an efficient east/west highway. The upgraded road would support industry, including the energy and manufacturing industries, in the area and encourage future development due to improved access to the region.

The RTIP project would have significant safety and economic benefits to Northeast Ohio, and I encourage the Department to give this proposal full and fair consideration. For additional information, please contact Leah_Hill@brown.senate.gov in my office.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator