



October 24, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Member – Stark / Carroll / Columbiana Counties Regional Transportation Improvement Project

RE: INFRA grant applications for extending US 30 four lane highway from trump Ave to SR 44

Dear Madam Secretary:

As President of the Stark Economic Development Board (SEDB), a non-profit economic development corporation whose mission is to retain and attract jobs and investment to Stark County, I want to express SEDB's support of the INFRA grant applications being submitted by the Stark-Carroll – Columbiana Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) to pursue funding dollars to extend the US Route 30 four lane highway from Trump Avenue in Canton to State Route 44 in East Canton.

The continued extension of US 30 as a four lane highway benefits this area of eastern Ohio in a number of ways. It would improve safer and more direct access for our local manufacturers and distributors to customers in eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and the Pittsburgh markets. These same advantages apply to local exploration and production, completion, and service companies that are developing the Utica shale play in eastern Ohio, along with continued historical / conventional field development. With the ongoing construction of the Shell ethane cracker in Monaca, Pa, and the potential construction of the PPT ethane cracker in Moundsville, OH, the possibilities of new chemical and plastics manufacturing greatly increases in eastern Ohio, including areas proximate to US 30.

Ongoing construction of the Rover, Nexus, and Kinder Morgan pipelines, all near US 30, provide new manufacturing and processing opportunities for the feedstock they transport. SEDB is thankful for the opportunity for the RTIP to pursue the INFRA grant funds, and stands ready to continue to assist in the application process and projects that can result with INFRA Grant awards.

Sincerely

Ray Hexamer
CEO & President

Stark Economic Development Board