

BOB GIBBS  
7TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2446 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6265

110 COTTAGE STREET  
ASHLAND, OH 44805  
(419) 207-0650

110 CENTRAL PLAZA SOUTH  
CANTON, OH 44702  
(330) 737-1631

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3507

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
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SUBCOMMITTEES  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE,  
AND RESEARCH

October 25, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I respectfully request consideration of the Regional Transportation Improvement Project's (RTIP) application for an the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant.

Upgrading U.S. Route 30, the Lincoln Highway, across the state of Ohio has been an ongoing effort for years. This initiative has been driven by national, statewide, regional, and local factors including the need to ensure highway safety, expansion of industry, and economic development. RTIP would use this grant to help fund the expansion of U.S. Route 30, spanning Trump Avenue to State Route 44 in Stark County, Ohio.

On a national level, U.S. Route 30, which extends from Oregon to New Jersey, is an integral part of the National Highway System. On a regional level, the RTIP project would provide an efficient link between the eastern portion of Stark County with Carroll and Columbiana counties in Ohio, as well as the western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia regions. The project would improve the level of service for through and local traffic, and improve safety on U.S. Route 30.

From an economic development standpoint, the RTIP project will foster growth in a rural region of the Appalachian Basin not currently served by an efficient east to west highway. This project would unequivocally aid in facilitating growth in the existing industry and future development through improved access to the region. In particular, this project is very important to the energy industry in the Marcellus and Utica shale play areas. An expanded and upgraded U.S. Route 30 would improve safety and bring new economic activity vital to Ohio's 7th Congressional District, and the region as a whole.

Thank you for considering the Regional Transportation Improvement Project grant application for the INFRA grant. If you have any additional questions, please contact my District Director, Tim Ross in my Ashland office at (419) 207-0650.

Sincerely,

