

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 1, 2017

Mr. Martin Klepper
Executive Director
Build America Bureau
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Klepper,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark counties in Ohio for funding in the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) program. I understand that these three counties have created a Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) with the goal of making major improvements to U.S. Route 30 from Canton, Ohio to the eastern Ohio border.

At present, the counties working under the RTIP are seeking to pair local dollars with federal funding through the INFRA grant program to create a bypass from Trump Avenue in Canton, Ohio, to Ohio State Route 44 outside of East Canton, Ohio. Despite its current narrow and circuitous path, this four-mile section of Route 30 sees heavy commercial vehicle traffic on a regular basis. By making much-needed investments to widen and straighten this portion of Route 30, the RTIP will be able to take a critical first step toward its overall goal.

Carroll, Columbiana and Stark counties state that improving Rt. 30 will spur economic growth by providing a reliable highway to connect these three northern counties of the Utica Shale Basin in Ohio, one of the most important natural gas development fields in the country. Moreover, each step toward completion of the RTIP enhances the capacity of manufacturers within the Canton area to transport their goods eastward to the Ohio River port in Wellsville, Ohio, strengthening the local industry's connection to domestic and global markets.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact Ray Paoletta at 216-522-7095. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator