



## H.O.P.E. Inc.

**Helping Osnaburg Prosper Economically Inc.**

President – Brenda A. Griffith  
Vice-President – Kevin Miller  
Secretary – Kathy Almasy  
Treasurer – Mary Sanders  
Public Relations – Beth Schuring

October 29, 2017

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

RE: Extensions of US Route 30 in Stark County from Trump Road to State Route 44

Dear Ms. Chao:

The Helping Osnaburg Prosper Economically Inc. Development Committee appreciates this opportunity to submit a letter of strong support for the US 30 Extension in Stark County from the Trump Avenue Interchange to State Route 44.

At the present time, US Route 30 changes from a four lane limited access highway at Trump Avenue in Canton Township to a two lane road that travels eastward to the Pennsylvania border. The project limits for this phase of about three miles are Trump Avenue on the west end and State Route 44 on the east side. The US Route 30 Extension Project will help solve the traffic congestion problems along the present two lane highway by diverting the traffic around the Village of East Canton.

The existing US Route 30 was never designed for the large volume of vehicles that use it today and cannot provide for our future requirements. In the last few years, the traffic traveling through the Village of East Canton has greatly increased. As you travel US 30 inside the Village of East Canton, you will have to navigate two 90 degree turns, three signal lights, and share sections of State Route 172 and State Route 44. The noise, pollution and vibrations from the large trucks and other traffic are now 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The few small businesses that exist along this route have very limited parking and require residents to exit their cars with large trucks passing just a few feet from them. It is becoming a health and safety issue for the residents.

The US Route 30 Extension Project includes sections in Canton City, East Canton Village, Canton Township and Osnaburg Township. This area is a prime location for development since there is easy access to sewer, water, and other utilities. Businesses related to the Marcellus and Utica Shale oil and gas production and other developments are locating in this region and the highway system needs to be able to support the economic development, new jobs, and increased population.

The H.O.P.E. Inc. Development Committee appreciates your consideration of the application for funding the important US Route 30 Extension Project. We hope that you will be able to help this community and support our economic development by approving the project funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda A. Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "G".

Brenda A. Griffith, President

H.O.P.E. Inc.

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