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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

November 3, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) evaluates applications for Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grants, I write to draw your attention to the application submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Cleveland Flats Intermodal Modernization project submitted by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and the City of Cleveland. This project would make improvements to increase mobility and access for low-income neighborhoods in the Cleveland Flats area. These improvements will allow residents to gain connections to jobs, fresh food, health care, retail, and recreation centers.

The Cleveland Flats Intermodal Modernization project would reconstruct a key intermodal connector that passes from the west bank of the Flats neighborhood to Whiskey Island along routes US 6 and US 20 and will facilitate quicker access to Interstates 71, 77, and 90. It would also bring key stretches of the road to a state of good repair and reconstruct key arteries of Maine Avenue, Center Street, Elm Street, and River Road, improving freight flow and giving residents in the Flats community greater accessibility to key resources.

Through these improvements, the Cleveland Flats Intermodal Modernization Project would also improve the freight capacity, boosting economic activity by spurring businesses, increasing visitors' access to the area, improving the environment of the Flats, and supporting revitalization of the area to spur residential, commercial, and recreational development. It would also help to connect residents with key jobs across Cleveland.

Should the Cleveland Flats Intermodal Modernization project receive funding, NOACA, the City of Cleveland, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Cleveland Metroparks would collaborate on this project and work together with ongoing development of improvements to the active transportation network in the region.

The Cleveland Flats Intermodal Modernization project would facilitate much-needed renovations that would improve the flow of freight, residential mobility, and economic development in the Flat and across the Cleveland region. I ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration. For additional information, please contact Leah Hill ([Leah\\_Hill@brown.senate.gov](mailto:Leah_Hill@brown.senate.gov)) in my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator