



**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

October 15, 2019

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

I write today in support of the application by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark counties for a BUILD grant to help fund the US 30, Trump Avenue to SR 44 highway construction project.

As you know, upgrading US 30 – the Lincoln Highway – across the State of Ohio has been an ongoing effort since the 1950s. The initiative has been driven by national, statewide, regional, and local factors including the need to ensure highway safety, expansion of industry, and economic development. US 30, which extends from Oregon to New Jersey, is an integral part of the National Highway System. One of the primary purposes of the RTIP project is to continue the development of the entire corridor as a primary highway, and ensuring its state of good repair.

On a regional level, the RTIP project will provide an efficient east/west route to link the eastern portion of Stark County with Carroll and Columbiana counties and the Eastern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia region. The project will improve the level of service for through and local traffic, and improve safety on US 30, which currently experiences crash rates considerably higher than statewide averages.

From an economic development standpoint, the RTIP project will foster economic growth in a rural region of the Appalachian Basin not currently served by an efficient east/west highway. It will support existing industry and future development through improved access to the region. In particular, this project will be very important to ensure the growth of the energy industry in the Marcellus and Utica shale play areas.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Keeler at (330) 337-6951.

Sincerely,

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

**MARIETTA OFFICE**

246 Front Street  
Marietta, OH 45750

(740) 376-0868

**SALEM OFFICE**

192 East State Street  
Salem, OH 44460

(330) 337-6951

**CAMBRIDGE OFFICE**

116 Southgate Parkway  
Cambridge, OH 43725

(740) 432-2366

**IRONTON OFFICE**

202 Park Avenue  
Suite C  
Ironton, OH 45638

(740) 534-9431