

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

July 23, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) on behalf of Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties for funding in the FY20 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

In 2019, RTIP received a BUILD grant for the design work, right-of-way acquisition, site preparation, and general construction of the US 30 expressway expansion segment from Trump Avenue in Canton, Ohio to Ohio State Route 44. I understand that RTIP seeks additional funding for this project, which has a goal of extending US 30 from Canton to the eastern border of Ohio.

Extension of this expressway would improve safety, particularly for trucks, as it redirects truck traffic from the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane Route 30. Through improving the safety of the route, this project would provide access to the oil and gas industry in the growing Marcellus and Utica shale regions. This expansion would also provide better access to Columbiana County Port Authority's state of the art intermodal facility in Wellsville, Ohio.

Further assistance from your agency would allow RTIP to fast-track the US 30 expansion. This expansion would benefit rural counties in Appalachia by improving highway safety and access, which could spur increased commercial, residential, and industrial business development for the region.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my Grant Coordinator, Kristy Ramey, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator

BOB GIBBS
7TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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

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ASHLAND, OH 44805
(419) 207-0850

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

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

August 6, 2020

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

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for the request by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties, Ohio, for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. This project would extend a critical US 30/Lincoln Highway expressway segment east of Canton, in Stark County, from Trump Avenue to Ohio State Route 44. This highway corridor improvement project is critically important to promote highway safety, and has broad implications for improving surface transportation, commerce, trade and quality of life in local communities.

In 2019, USDOT awarded the RTIP a BUILD grant in the amount of \$18 million to allow for design work, right-of-way acquisition, site preparation and general construction. This award, along with matching funds from Ohio DOT, has allowed work to begin in earnest. The additional \$22 million application recently submitted, also in combination with state and local resources, will ensure the project is quickly completed.

The RTIP project would have a significant impact in rural counties in the Appalachian region by improving highway access for movement associated with goods and services, including commerce related to the oil and gas industry in the Marcellus and Utica shale regions. These regions are currently the focus of plans for a major expansion by the oil, natural gas, chemicals and plastics industries, already in excess of \$10 billion. This highway expansion will also allow better and safer access to our country's deepest in-land port in Wellsville, OH.

A US 30 expressway east of Canton will greatly improve safety, especially for trucks. The expressway will avoid the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane Route 30, which has major safety deficiencies. Because of the high chances of an accident, many trucking companies refuse to allow their drivers to operate trucks on the existing Route 30. This truck traffic could be routed more safely and efficiently once this project is complete.

Extending the US 30 expressway east of Canton would pull additional traffic through Stark and Columbiana counties, improving the corridor from Pittsburgh west. We recognize the critical task your office has in maintaining and improving our country's transportation infrastructure and for your consideration of our request for this important and meaningful project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

ANTHONY GONZALEZ
16TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3516

1023 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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4150 BELDEN VILLAGE STREET, SUITE 607
CANTON, OH 44718
(330) 599-7037

13477 PROSPECT ROAD, SUITE 212
STRONGSVILLE, OH 44149
(440) 783-3696

Thursday, August 6th, 2020

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for the request by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties, Ohio, for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. This project would extend a critical US 30/Lincoln Highway expressway segment east of Canton, in Stark County, from Trump Avenue to Ohio State Route 44. This highway corridor improvement project is critically important to promote highway safety, and has broad implications for improving surface transportation, commerce, trade and quality of life in local communities.

In 2019, USDOT awarded the RTIP a BUILD grant in the amount of \$18 million to allow for design work, right-of-way acquisition, site preparation and general construction. This award, along with matching funds from Ohio DOT, has allowed work to begin in earnest. The additional \$22 million application recently submitted, along with state and local resources, will allow the project to be quickly completed.

The RTIP project would have a significant impact in rural counties in the Appalachian region by improving highway access for movement associated with goods and services, including commerce related to the oil and gas industry in the Marcellus and Utica shale regions. These regions are currently the focus of plans for a major expansion by the oil, natural gas, chemicals and plastics industries, already in excess of \$10 billion. This highway expansion will also allow better and safer access to our country's deepest inland port in Wellsville, OH.

A US 30 expressway east of Canton will greatly improve safety, especially for trucks. The expressway will avoid the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane Route 30, which has major safety deficiencies. Because of the high chances of an accident, many trucking companies refuse to allow their drivers to operate trucks on the existing Route 30. This truck traffic could be routed more safely and efficiently once this project is complete. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



July 30, 2020
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the RTIP US 30 expressway extension BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Ohio Department of Transportation would like to express our support for the BUILD grant application submitted by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana and Stark Counties, Ohio for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. This project will extend a segment of the US 30 Lincoln Highway expressway east of Canton in Stark County, from Trump Avenue to SR 44. This highway corridor project is important to promote highway safety and will improve access to commerce, trade and quality of life in northeast Ohio.

In 2019, USDOT awarded the RTIP a BUILD grant in the amount of \$18 million to allow for design work, right-of-way acquisition, site preparation and general construction. This award, along with matching funds from Ohio DOT, has allowed work to begin in earnest. The additional \$22 million application recently submitted, also in combination with state and local resources, will allow the project to be quickly completed.

The RTIP project will have impacts in rural counties in the Appalachian region by improving highway access for freight and traffic movements that support the domestic oil and gas industry production of the Marcellus and Utica shale regions of eastern Ohio. These regions are currently the focus of plans for the major expansion of U.S. domestic sources of oil, natural gas, chemicals and plastics industries which require a reliable transportation system.

The anticipated project will greatly improve safety for trucks by improving curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane US Route 30. It is anticipated that extending and improving the US 30 expressway east of Canton, Ohio would induce traffic through this region rather than parallel routes not designed to handle heavy truck volumes.

I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of this project with associated improvements for the US30 corridor in northeast Ohio.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Marchbanks".

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D.
ODOT Director



ENCINO
Energy

August 5, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

Last year, our company hosted a delegation of Ohio elected officials at our corporate office in Houston, Texas on a fact-finding mission which included a discussion around Houston's broad infrastructure and access to markets for the oil and natural gas industry. While our corporate office is in Texas, Encino Energy has the largest oil and gas leasehold position in Ohio, where we are investing hundreds of millions of dollars each year in drilling activities.

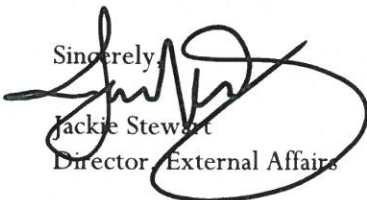
Our drilling activities require significant use of roads and bridges; therefore, we welcome any efforts to improve the safety and efficient transport of freight across the state along the Ohio Energy Corridor. In addition, we strongly believe in long-term sustainable economic development for this region and the need to improve infrastructure is a key component to building lifelong communities in Appalachia.

During the fact-finding mission to Houston, we discussed the need to develop a petrochemical "hub" or a local market in the Appalachian Basin. This effort has also been identified by the U.S. Department of Energy as a priority. To that end, we appreciate and applaud the 2019 funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) awarded to the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark counties in Ohio. This award, along with matching funds from Ohio DOT, has allowed work to begin in earnest. The additional \$22 million application recently submitted, also in combination with state and local resources, will allow the project to be completed quickly.

As we continue to learn about the vast economic and environmental benefits found through harvesting our domestic natural resources, we stand ready, willing, and able to provide any educational support we can to help your office understand the economic revitalization occurring in Ohio, thanks in large part to the development of oil and natural gas.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Jackie Stewart
Director, External Affairs



Alexander A. Zumbar

Stark County Treasurer

110 Central Plaza South ~ Suite 250 ~ Canton, Ohio 44702-1410
www.starkcountyohio.gov/treasurer

Member
Stark County
Board of Revision
Budget Commission
Data Process Board
Phone (330) 451-7814
Fax (330) 451-7815

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

July 21, 2020

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for the request by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties, Ohio, for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. This project would extend a critical US 30/Lincoln Highway expressway segment east of Canton, in Stark County, from Trump Avenue to Ohio State Route 44. This highway corridor improvement project is critically important to promote highway safety, and has broad implications for improving surface transportation, commerce, trade and quality of life in local communities.

In 2019, USDOT awarded the RTIP a BUILD grant in the amount of \$18 million to allow for design work, right-of-way acquisition, site preparation and general construction. This award, along with matching funds from Ohio DOT, has allowed work to begin in earnest. The additional \$22 million application recently submitted, also in combination with state and local resources, will allow the project to be quickly completed.

The RTIP project would have a significant impact in rural counties in the Appalachian region by improving highway access for movement associated with goods and services, including commerce related to the oil and gas industry in the Marcellus and Utica shale regions. These regions are currently the focus of plans for a major expansion by the oil, natural gas, chemicals and plastics industries, already in excess of \$10 billion. This highway expansion will also allow better and safer access to our country's deepest in-land port in Wellsville, OH.

A US 30 expressway east of Canton will greatly improve safety, especially for trucks. The expressway will avoid the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane Route 30, which has major safety deficiencies. Because of the high chances of an accident, many trucking companies refuse to allow their drivers to operate trucks on the existing Route 30. This truck traffic could be routed more safely and efficiently once this project is complete.

Extending the US 30 expressway east of Canton would pull additional traffic through Stark and Columbiana counties, improving the corridor from Pittsburgh west. We recognize the critical task your

office has in maintaining and improving our country's transportation infrastructure and hope you find favor on our request for this important and meaningful project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Alexander A. Zumber

NEFCO

NORTHEAST OHIO FOUR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

175 South Main Street, Room 211
Akron, Ohio 44308-1308

(330) 643-8514 • Fax (330) 643-5046
www.nefcoplanning.org

Dan Moeglin, Chairman

Joseph Hadley, Jr., Executive Director

July 24, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Support for U.S. 30/Lincoln Highway Expressway Extension Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) is pleased to offer its full support of the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties, Ohio, for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program.

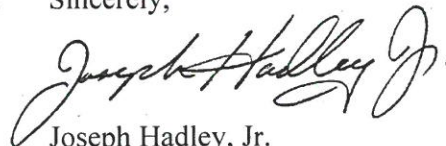
As the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's designated Economic Development District for Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties, Ohio, NEFCO is focused on preparing and implementing a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development plan. The U.S. 30/Lincoln Highway Expressway Extension Project is consistent with NEFCO's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which aims to build a strong, resilient regional economy, foster effective transportation access, and support projects that contribute toward strengthening the region's targeted industries.

The U.S. 30/Lincoln Highway Expressway Extension Project will provide safe, efficient, and improved highway access in Stark and Columbiana Counties, particularly for commerce related to shale energy development and the petrochemical industry. The highway extension will promote economic development and job creation in an economically-distressed area.

NEFCO respectfully requests favorable consideration of this important regional economic development project.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact our office at 330-643-8514.

Sincerely,



Joseph Hadley, Jr.
Executive Director



Connecting Communities to Resources

July 27, 2020

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

Re: BUILD Application for US 30 Corridor

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) supports the request by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark Counties, Ohio, for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for the US 30 corridor. This project will extend US 30 from Trump Avenue in Stark County to SR 44 and is the first step in fully developing this corridor. The improvements to this corridor are crucial to develop a more sustainable economy for our region and to support the growing energy sector and petrochemical development activities. This highway corridor improvement project is critically important to promote highway safety, and has broad implications for improving surface transportation, commerce, trade, and quality of life in local communities.

In 2019, USDOT awarded the RTIP a BUILD grant in the amount of \$18 million to allow for design work, right-of-way acquisition, site preparation and general construction. This award, along with matching funds from Ohio DOT, has allowed work to begin in earnest. The additional \$22 million application recently submitted, also in combination with state and local resources, will allow the project to be quickly completed.

This corridor is the cornerstone of economic development for our Appalachian region as it will provide the capacity and safety needed to fully develop this east-west corridor with access to the 20th largest metro area in the nation, Pittsburgh. US 30 also connects manufacturing hubs with the deepest inland water port on the Ohio River at Wellsville. Expansion of this corridor is needed to provide efficient movement of freight across Ohio and the nation. With the construction of the ethane cracker in Monaca, Pennsylvania, expansion of this corridor is now more critical than ever to facilitate the efficient and safe movement of freight especially for the plastics and polymer industry.

A US 30 expressway east of Canton will greatly improve safety, especially for trucks. The expressway will avoid the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane US 30, which has major safety deficiencies. Due to safety concerns, many trucking companies refuse to allow their drivers to operate trucks on the

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OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
July 27, 2020
Page 2

existing US 30. Once this project is complete, truck traffic will be routed more safely and efficiently reducing travel time and costs.

OMEGA has identified this project as one of the top long-term priority projects in our Long Range Transportation and Development Plan. We support the efforts of the RTIP to improve this corridor.

Thank you for your consideration to fund this critical Ohio freight corridor which will promote the development of a more sustainable and diverse economy for our region in Eastern Appalachian Ohio.

Sincerely,

OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION



Jeannette M. Wierzbicki, P.E.
Executive Director