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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

October 21, 2019

Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to bring your attention to the grant application submitted by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP), a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana, and Stark counties in Ohio, for funding under the Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program.

The RTIP is seeking funding to extend the US 30 expressway segment east of Canton in Stark County, from Trump Avenue to SR 44. The extension is critical to promote highway safety, and has implications for improving commerce, trade and quality of life in Stark County.

Extending the US 30 expressway would generate jobs for local residents along its route, potentially bringing construction of new retail shopping plazas, gas stations, restaurants, lodging, and commercial and industrial businesses. In addition, the highway extension will significantly increase safety, especially for trucks. The project will avoid the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane Route 30, which has major safety deficiencies.

This highway extension will also provide easier and more secure access for energy companies transporting supplies to extraction operations, and moving products throughout the Marcellus and Utica shale areas in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. This is especially important since these shale areas are one of the most important natural gas development fields in the country and contain one hundred years' worth of natural gas production in both Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Receiving this grant would benefit not only Ohio, but also critical energy areas in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It will also support local employment and continued economic growth. I encourage the Department of Transportation to give this application full and fair consideration and ask that you please keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator