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December 16, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Rickenbacker Inland Port FY 2017 FASTLANE Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

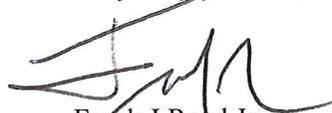
We are pleased to provide this letter expressing our strong support for the Rickenbacker Inland Port Interstate Connector FASTLANE application, which includes adding a third through lane in each direction to the existing stretch of Alum Creek Drive along a 2.3 mile stretch between State Route 317 to the south and Groveport Road to the north.

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) has partnered with Norfolk Southern Railway, the Franklin County Engineer's Office, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to assess critical improvements needed in the Rickenbacker Inland Port area. This application represents a package that addresses the area's transportation network in a comprehensive, multimodal manner.

This critical improvement focuses on increasing capacity along Alum Creek Drive, the north-south connection between Rickenbacker and I-270. A component of USDOT's National Primary Freight Highway System (PHFS) and a state-designated and federally-accepted National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Connector Route, Alum Creek Drive is a critical freight corridor for the region. The widening improvement will alleviate two sources of congestion: the increased traffic generated by the growing number of successful businesses and the increased regional truck traffic generated by increasing volumes at the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility.

This corridor of central Ohio is critical for the transportation of goods which are served by air, rail, and truck. We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the prosperity of one of our region's most important job-creating areas.

Very truly yours,



Frank J Reed Jr.

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx

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cc: Elaine Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Robin Holderman, Director of Real Estate, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Kristin Easterday, Director of Government Relations, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Suzanne P. Bell, Esq., Legal Counsel, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Randy Bush, Controller, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Randy S. Noe, Esq., Norfolk Southern Rail Corporation
Helen M. Hart, Esq., Norfolk Southern Rail Corporation
The Honorable Dean Ringle, Franklin County Engineer
The Honorable Rob Portman, United States Senator
The Honorable Pat Tiberi, Member of Congress
Don DePerro, President, Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Zimmerman, Director of Transportation, Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Holly F. Caruso, Esq., Columbus Chamber of Commerce

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