



Ohio Senate
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Columbus, Ohio 43215

Jim Hughes
16th Senate District

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Committees

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December 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jim Hughes", written over a horizontal line.

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am pleased to provide this letter expressing my 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.

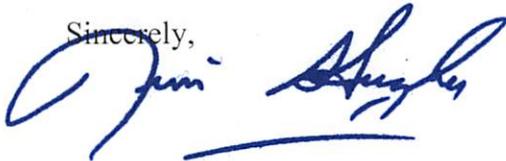
This critical improvement focuses on increasing capacity along Alum Creek Drive, the north-south connection between Rickenbacker and I-270. A component of USDOT's National Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS) and a state-designated and federally-accepted National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Connector 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.

The transportation infrastructure improvements detailed in this application are increasingly critical to business retention and attraction in Central Ohio, as well as regional and statewide

freight movements. Therefore, I respectfully request the U.S. Department of Transportation's full and fair consideration of the Rickenbacker Inland Port Interstate Connector FASTLANE application, which details the importance of such improvements to the prosperity of one of our region's most important job-creating areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jim Hughes
16th Senate District