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December 15, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I submit this letter in support of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's (CRAA) 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 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. Their application represents a package that addresses the area's transportation needs in a comprehensive, multimodal, and cost effective manner.

This critical improvement focuses on widening Alum Creek Drive, the north-south connection between Rickenbacker and I-270 in order to increase capacity. A component of the Department of Transportation'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.

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. I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's application.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress, OH-03

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