



# Daniel J. O'Connor Jr.

## Franklin County Recorder

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March 10, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the Columbus Crossroads INFRA Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Franklin County Recorder's Office, I am writing this letter to express my strong support for and to reinforce the strong regional collaboration for the joint City of Columbus and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) INFRA grant application for Phase 4 of the Columbus Crossroads project.

The Franklin County Recorder's Office records all documents pertaining to real estate transactions in Franklin County. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw our highest ever volume of documents recorded in 2020. Considering the significant population growth Franklin County is experiencing, we expect the real estate market here to keep pace for the foreseeable future. While our office primarily focuses on real estate documents, we also serve the Veteran community by issuing State of Ohio Veteran ID cards, and the senior citizen community by recording Living Wills. The Columbus Crossroads project will undoubtedly make it easier for our customers and citizens to access our office once the pandemic is under control.

Columbus Crossroads is a community-led \$1.3 billion, multi-phase project to transform the crossroads of Interstates 70 and 71. The project improves one of the key corridors of the National Primary Highway Freight System, while at the same time leveraging this infrastructure investment to help restore and reconnect communities that were adversely impacted by redlining and by the original construction I-70 and I-71. Current and future phases of work, including Phase 4, from this multi-phase project are now integrated within ODOT's Downtown Ramp Up construction project.

While this major investment will replace obsolete highway infrastructure, Columbus Crossroads will also restore connections, build ladders of opportunity, transform communities, and revitalize Downtown Columbus and surrounding neighborhoods. ODOT, the City of Columbus, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and a diverse group of community stakeholders and business entities have collaborated over the last decade to develop and implement this comprehensive vision.



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We respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of these improvements to the restoration of our communities, the prosperity of our region and state, and the resiliency of the national interstate highway system as we urge your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr.  
Franklin County Ohio Recorder