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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 Williams Road Corridor Plan RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the joint City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) RAISE planning grant application for the Williams Road Corridor Plan project. This project is seeking to use the RAISE planning grant to develop a consistent corridor concept plan for the entire 6.5-mile Williams Road corridor, from the road's western terminus near the Scioto River, to its eastern terminus at State Route 317 (Hamilton Road).

Williams Road is an important east-west roadway for passengers and freight. MORPC identified the need for improving the Williams Road corridor as part of its 2018 Rickenbacker Area Study, due to the projected population and employment growth along the corridor. The corridor serves a wide variety of land uses, including a NSR railyard. The corridor's two at-grade crossings and one separated crossing have a significant impact on traffic moving through the corridor. This planning grant will include review of a grade separation over active rail lines and the elimination of an at-grade, public crossing, achieving a USDOT goal to reduce the number of at grade, public crossings.

A RAISE planning grant is necessary to help create a unified concept for this very complicated corridor that is in such great need of safety, mobility, congestion, and capacity improvements. Addressing these challenges will significantly improve freight and transportation opportunities along a corridor that includes opportunity zones, areas of persistent poverty, and a historically disadvantaged census tract.

We strongly urge consideration of this application.

Sincerely,  
*Rick L. Crawford*

Rick Crawford

