



# COLUMBUS CROSSROADS INFRA APPLICATION

FOURTH STREET BRIDGE

## BACKGROUND

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), along with partners at the City of Columbus and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), seeks support for the INFRA Grants program application it is preparing to submit to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The INFRA Grants program is a discretionary grant program with approximately \$900 million available to support major transportation infrastructure projects nationwide. The application seeks \$40 million in funds to advance key components of the ODOT-led I-70/I-71 Columbus Crossroads improvements, known as Phase 4.

The Columbus Crossroads Project is named for the intersection of I-70 and I-71 in Downtown Columbus. It is a \$1.3 billion project to replace aging infrastructure, alleviate significant congestion, correct serious safety risks, and reconnect neighborhoods separated by the initial interstate construction. ODOT, the City of Columbus, and MORPC have already invested nearly \$380 million in the Columbus Crossroads Project in previously completed phases.

### COLUMBUS CROSSROADS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 130,000 vehicles per day, including 17,000 trucks
- Traffic exceeds current design capacity by 50,000 vehicles per day
- Part of National Primary Highway Freight System
- 6% of Columbus freeway system, but 25% of all freeway crashes
- In 2015, contained three of Ohio's top 10 freeway crash locations

### COLUMBUS CROSSROADS PHASE 4 COMPONENTS:

- **Cost approximately: \$216 million**
- **INFRA Request: \$40 million**
- **Eliminate 95% of lane changes that drivers are currently forced to make**
- **Alleviate a regional and state congestion point for commuters and visitors to Downtown Columbus and the entire region**



HIGH STREET

ODOT has broken the South Innerbelt improvements, also known as Phase 4, into multiple components in an effort to fund the project. The total cost for the three components is approximately \$216 million — of which ODOT would commit approximately \$146 million, the City of Columbus would commit approximately \$27 million, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission would commit approximately \$3 million. A successful INFRA application would allow ODOT and the city to leverage INFRA funds to complete the project as originally envisioned and to recombine its three components into a single, phased project.

## DETAILS OF PHASE 4 COMPONENTS

Phase 4 will transform Downtown Columbus by rebuilding and replacing deteriorating infrastructure, in addition to constructing new infrastructure necessary for the City of Columbus to complete the urban avenue improvements that will improve safety, reconnect neighborhoods, and provide additional economic development opportunities.

### PHASE 4 REBUILDS:

- **Front Street Bridge:** The new bridge will be a gateway for Downtown and the Brewery District, and feature wider sidewalks and greenspace.
- **High Street Bridge:** The rebuilt bridge will be a civic gateway between Downtown, German Village, and the Brewery District, and feature a double-sided “green cap” with significant public green space and enhanced pedestrian accommodations.
- **Third Street Bridge:** The new bridge will be a gateway between Downtown and German Village, with capacity for a commercial cap similar to the I-670 commercial cap in the Short North or a green cap similar to the High Street Bridge’s proposed cap.
- **Fourth Street Bridge:** The new bridge will improve development opportunities on Livingston Avenue, with enhanced connections for pedestrians and bicyclists.

### PHASE 4 REPLACES:

- **I-70 eastbound ramp at Front Street:** The new ramp into Downtown Columbus will replace the existing I-70 eastbound ramp at Front Street, and it will carry traffic entering downtown across the Downtown Split and on to Fulton Avenue.

### PHASE 4 CONSTRUCTS:

- **Additional Lane:** The new through lane will provide additional capacity for vehicles travelling on I-71.
- **Southside Retaining Wall:** The new retaining will extend from the western edge of the I-70/71 trench eastward to the Fourth Street Bridge; and it will enable the City of Columbus to (1) convert Livingston Avenue into a two-way street from Front to Fourth Street, and (2) create approximately 1.5 acres of high-valued land for development between Livingston Avenue and the highway trench.



FOURTH STREET BRIDGE



FRONT STREET

