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Rick Crawford
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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Hilliard Rome Road Grade Separation CRISI Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation (Norfolk Southern), I am writing to express our support for the City of Columbus' Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application for the Hilliard Rome Road Grade Separation Project. When fully implemented, the project will improve connectivity, reduce vehicular delay and congestion, and improve safety by constructing an overhead bridge, while eliminating an at-grade crossing.

The at-grade crossing on Hilliard Rome Road (513244C) averages approximately 26,575 motor vehicles and 19 trains per day; and its State of Ohio hazard ranking is currently ranks 384th out of more than 5,600 at-grade crossings. Once completed, this project will support the movement of people and goods along an important roadway and railway systems and to communities throughout the nation. Neighboring communities will benefit from reduced vehicle and railroad delays, improved economic development potential and improved emergency response times and transit service speed. This project will also increase operational efficiency and safety for railroads, roadway users, pedestrians.

Norfolk Southern believes the project in this application will yield significant long-term benefits to the City of Columbus and surrounding communities. I am pleased to express our support for this comprehensive infrastructure project and respectfully request its selection for an FRA CRISI grant.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Crawford