



May 23, 2024

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 Hilliard Rome Road Grade Separation Project CRISI Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express my support for the City of Columbus' Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) application for the Hilliard Rome Road Grade Separation Project. The requested CRISI funding (approximately \$26.6 million) will improve security, alleviate transportation insecurity in two census tracts, and extend the impact and benefit of federal and local rapid transit investments for one of the busiest roads in Ohio's fastest growing city.

The at-grade crossing (513244C) on Hilliard Rome Road is one of the busier and more hazardous at-grade crossings in Ohio with an average of approximately 26,575 motor vehicles and 19 trains per day. Its hazard ranking is currently 384th for at-grade crossings statewide. Separating the existing crossing and providing dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities will significantly improve safety at the crossing and through the entire corridor.

Two census tracts in the project area are identified as disadvantaged and having high transportation insecurity by USDOT's Justice40 Rail Explorer: 39049008165 & 39049008171. USDOT recently awarded a Neighborhood Access and Equity Capital Construction grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority for the BRT's construction; and the Hilliard Rome Road grade separation project will further extend the federal and local investments in the West Broad BRT Corridor by making it easier and safer to cross the railroad tracks and access the BRT.

Ohio has awarded this project \$3.3 million. A CRISI award will continue the momentum to replace a hazardous at-grade crossing that lacks pedestrian or bicycle facilities with a separated crossing that includes pedestrian and bicycle facilities. I ask that you give the application every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam C. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Adam C. Miller
State Representative