



1980 W Broad St. | Columbus, OH 43223

July 16, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao,
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write today in support of the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection project. The project consists of: 1) adding an interchange along US Route 35 while utilizing an existing overpass bridge and four rest-area ramps and 2) developing a State Route 7 bypass route along Bob Evans Highway/Farm Road to alleviate costly impacts to businesses and residents from flooding and congestion.

Southeast Ohio compared to the rest of the state is disadvantaged and in need of job creation and workplace development. With the approval of this project, comes the ability to ensure long-term economic growth for the region, as well as, improving the local economy. Not only will this impact businesses, but also provides autonomous vehicle testing. Additional safety for truck drivers is provided by “smart” parking and by providing innovation with the installation of electric charging stations.

I strongly support this application and ask that your office give this request every consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me at 614-387-5175 with any further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Barna".

James A. Barna
Executive Director



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