



July 11, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Gallia County Economic Development would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection Project. Infrastructure projects, such as this, are absolutely vital to ensuring the sustainable, long-term economic growth of the region, and the completion of this project would be very beneficial to the local economy.

The proposed interchange along US-35 at Harrisburg Road is located one mile from the Dan Evans Industrial Park. The addition of the proposed interchange, coupled with the installation of fiber optic connectivity which supports the Drive Ohio autonomous vehicle project, will provide high tech industrial development opportunities, spurring additional industrial and commercial development along the US-35 corridor in Gallia County.

The State Route 7 bypass route along Bob Evans Farms Highway/ Farm Road in Gallipolis will provide safe transportation routes during flooding while also alleviating traffic congestion along an important business route in Gallia County.

The return on this investment will be realized by many, including local companies that will prosper from enhanced access to their businesses and providing better opportunities for movement of their products. The residents of Gallia County will not only have a safer route to travel, but will benefit from the increase in job opportunities as a result of the infrastructure improvements.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Clark  
Director  
Gallia County Economic Development

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