



# Village of Rio Grande

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July 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the application for funding of the east-west "smart" corridor in the Southeast Appalachian Ohio region. This is a cooperative effort between the Gallia County Engineer's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation. I am the mayor of a small village in this corridor, and it would make a huge and positive impact on our community.

Successful receipt of this funding would make our infrastructure more efficient, improve commerce transportation, make accessibility easier to the largest river port east of the Mississippi River, allow for improved safety to the trucking industry, and improve education systems for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

I also believe that funding for this project is critical for long-term sustainment of the local economy. It is for these reasons that we ask for your consideration for funding of the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Easter". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Robert M. Easter, Mayor