



Gallia County Local Schools

4836 State Route 325 • Patriot, Ohio 45658

Phone (740) 446-7917 • Fax (740) 446-3187

www.gallialocal.org

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

July 11, 2018

Secretary Chao,

As Superintendent of the Gallia County Local School District, I write this letter in support of receiving funding for the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connect Grant. From our location in southern Ohio, our busses run over 4,000 miles each day just to get our students to school. This does not include any additional transportation that is need to support other school activities. To put this in perspective we drive from Phoenix Arizona and back every day just to get our students to school.

Please note that serving a district in rural Appalachian Ohio presents several concerns and problems. First, unlike some areas, many of our students come to school not only to learn but to eat. We are an area already being served by a Federal Foods Grant (Community Eligibility Provisions). Without this many of our students would go hungry.

Another concern is the amount of miles our busses travel on a daily basis. Many of our roads are not paved in addition to not being safe for bus travel. Simply put, this makes it difficult and unsafe to transport kids to school. Simply stated, a safe and appropriate infrastructure would assist with the development of students and kids all over Gallia County. It would provide them with safe passage which in turn would benefit the entire educational process. Still another area to address is the wear and tear on our busses. A highly safe and productive infrastructure would add value to our bus fleet that takes a beating running the roads they travel every day. This upkeep costs the district thousands and thousands of dollars.

As you can see, the trickledown effect on not having paved, safe, and an efficient infrastructure is far reaching. There is why we need to secure funds from this grant. For me will mean safer routes to school, more students will be fed and educated, and the financial cost to the district will decrease because the roads are going to be much more efficient and safer.

I once again ask for your consideration in receiving the Southwest Ohio Innovative Smart Connect Grant. The potential positive impact on a community in my professional opinion much needed. Please let me know if you need me to clarify any of the above comments. I stand willing and committed to supporting our community in receiving this funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jude Meyers". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Jude Meyers, Superintendent of Schools