



July 12, 2018

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

RE: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for Gallia County and Ohio Department of Transportation for Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection

Dear Secretary Chao:

KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission strongly supports the BUILD Grant application for the Gallia County Engineer's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection application to develop a "smart" corridor in the Southeast Appalachian Ohio region. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Huntington, WV-KY-OH Urbanized Area, KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission recognizes the need for better connectivity to states along the Ohio River such as West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio which will support job and population growth. This is consistent with the goals identified in the KYOVA 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The project will bring many benefits to our area including safety improvements for the trucking industry, infrastructure efficiency, and access to rail and riverports. As the nation moves towards developing more efficient transportation options, this smart connection project will encourage innovative transportation options and provide opportunities for growth in our area in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission is pleased to support this valuable project to plan, design, and construct the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris M. Chiles".

Christopher M. Chiles
Executive Director

KYOVA Interstate
Planning Commission

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