



Gallia County

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ~ COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

July 12, 2018

Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The proposed Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection, an investment in the Southeast Appalachian Ohio Region, will boost opportunity into the Appalachian Tri-State areas of Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio. The partnership goal of the Gallia County Engineer's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), is to develop an east-west "smart" corridor in the Southeast Appalachian region.

Included in the project is an interchange, along US Route 35 and a State Route 7 bypass, to include, among other advantages, the addition of two electric charging stations, a smart trucking rest area and the installation of fiber optics. This project makes possible an increase in the parking capacity for commercial trucks "resting", to meet the USDOT requirements to ensure safety and much more. This project also helps position the region to expand in job and population growth, to take advantage of opportunities like the BUILD grant.

The Gallia County Chamber of Commerce is totally supportive of this project. It reflects the stated Mission of the Chamber, which includes promoting, supporting and strengthening business and economic development, throughout Gallia County.

The Chamber respectfully requests the Nation's Capital to approve the proposed Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection Project. Thank you for your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

Elisha Orsbon
Executive Director