



July 16, 2018

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

Re: Gallia County, Southeast Ohio Smart Connection Initiative

Dear Madam:

Horizon has been informed Gallia County and the Ohio Department of Transportation are jointly applying to receive federal funding to improve transportation infrastructure and broadband connectivity. Horizon is fully supportive of this application and the impact on economic development opportunities including the *Drive Ohio* autonomous vehicle project. Horizon has invested significantly in fiber infrastructure throughout Southeastern Ohio but, as you know, much more investment is needed.

Should Gallia County be successful in its application, Horizon is prepared to work in good faith with the county to leverage existing Horizon fiber network infrastructure to help expand the programs reach.

Sincerely,

Steve A. Steele, COO
Horizon
68 East Main Street
P.O. Box 480
Chillicothe, OH 45601

cc: Gallia County Engineer, Brett Boothe