



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR • JERRY WRAY, DIRECTOR

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support for TIGER III Grant Application for the Pickaway East-West Connector Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

In Ohio, the investments in transportation are putting Ohioans back to work and getting the national economy moving again. I write to you to share my support for Ohio's TIGER III Grant application for the Pickaway East-West Connector project.

In partnership with the project sponsor, Columbus International Airport Authority, the Ohio Department of Transportation, CSX Rail, Norfolk Southern Rail and the Ohio Department of Development are seeking TIGER III Discretionary Grant funds for the Pickaway East-West Connector project. The Pickaway East-West Connector is a rural Central Ohio project which will leverage state and private investments, to support the continued success of the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility in Central Ohio. The TIGER III funds will assist with the following improvements:

- Realignment and widening 3.75 miles of state roadway
- Construction of two roundabouts
- Provide grade separation over two Class 1 freight railways (CSX & NS Heartland Corridor)

The project will also address safety, access and capacity issues while providing much needed jobs in a severely economically distressed area. The Pickaway East-West Connector is the last piece of the Rickenbacker infrastructure puzzle.

Rickenbacker has a proven track record of providing Ohio and Midwestern businesses with an intermodal transportation system to move their products efficiently to/from global markets. The facility provides a direct link for Midwestern exports to safely reach the deep-water port in Norfolk, Virginia, through the Heartland Corridor (NS railroad improvement project for double-stack unit freight trains between the East Coast and the Midwest). This unique position has effectively created an inland port serving the entire Midwest, and allows our nation to take advantage of the increased capacity of the Panama Canal expansion, and Norfolk Virginia.

The Ohio Department of Transportation will is committed to a match of \$4,513,406. to support this much needed project.

We appreciate your support of this major project and your continued partnership as we work together to support Ohio's advantageous position as a cost-effective logistics and transportation location.

Respectfully,


Jerry Wray, Director