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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As the department considers applications for the FY 2012 TIGER Discretionary grants program, I would like to bring your attention to the Columbus Regional Airport Authority's application for the Rickenbacker Intermodal Connector.

The Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility is a significant job generator for Central Ohio. The facility provides a direct connection for international freight to the deep-water port in Norfolk, Virginia. As a logistics and freight distribution hub, the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility is critical to the local, national, and international markets.

The Rickenbacker Intermodal Connector project aims to improve access between the Rickenbacker Intermodal Facility and major transportation routes such as US 23, I-71 and I-270. This plan will help to accommodate the increased traffic and congestion as the activity at Rickenbacker continues to increase.

The project will not only expand multi-modal infrastructure capacity, but it will also increase freight efficiency and create jobs for many Ohioans. It is my hope that this project will benefit the City of Columbus, the State of Ohio, and the United States for many years to come.

As you carefully review the application, I am confident you will find that the objectives of the Rickenbacker Intermodal Connector project are closely aligned with goals of the TIGER program. I request that you give careful consideration to the application for funding. Please keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator