



Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission

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December 22, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Bridge Investment Act

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), we are pleased to express support for your proposed Bridge Investment Act, which would invest \$75 billion over ten years in bridge repairs that, when leveraged with local funds, will result in \$100-150 billion in projects.

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus urbanized area, MORPC is comprised of more than 60 local governments and regional organizations in a 15-county region. Central Ohio is quickly growing, with more than a million more people expected to live in the area by 2050. It is important that we have the infrastructure necessary for our people and businesses to thrive.

As you know, we rely on federal funding for our communities to get the job done. Applying for more funding through the grant program found in the Bridge Investment Act would be of great benefit at the local level. We applaud this thoughtful approach toward eliminating the bridge repair backlog and ensuring safe travels for people and freight.

Today, too many communities are struggling with the funding to complete basic maintenance for transportation, such as filling potholes and repaving. Although we practice a fix-it-first approach – taking care of what we have before expanding – overall funding continues to be a struggle. Additional investment in our bridges would free up other funding that could help address growing congestion and expansion needs.

The Bridge Investment Act would be an added opportunity for our public dollars to come back home to Ohio and support our growth for the next ten years and beyond.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with your office, USDOT, ODOT, our local governments and other stakeholders in Central Ohio to improve the process of completing needed infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Murdock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

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