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November 1, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senator
713 Hart Center Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Bridge Investment Program

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Bridge Investment Program. This program will provide a desperately needed source of funding to ensure that Ohio's bridges are maintained to a state of good repair and are safe for the movement of Ohio's people and goods.

In the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's (NOACA) five-county region alone there are over 3,000 bridges that are maintained by our state and local partners. Nearly 300 of these bridges (10%) are rated as structurally deficient, which according to the National Bridge Inventory Standards, means that the condition of the bridge includes a significant defect. Furthermore, only 46% of NOACA's bridges are assessed as in "good" or better condition in terms of their general appraisal rating.

As you know, funding resources to support bridge rehabilitation projects are being stretched to the limit just to meet basic maintenance needs to keep bridges open and safe. An investment of \$75 billion through the proposed Bridge Investment Program will address the backlog of current bridge deficiencies and allow state and local bridge owners to use their resources more efficiently. It will also create a reliable and innovative source for funding large bridge rehabilitation projects that otherwise could not be done without catastrophic impacts to state and local budgets and neglect of other transportation system assets maintenance.

We strongly support the proposed Bridge Investment Program as it supports NOACA's goals toward preserving and strengthening the region's transportation system. If there is anything we can do to further support this vital transportation program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Grace Gallucci
Executive Director
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

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