



February 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Alum Creek Drive Widening (State Route 317 to Groveport Road)**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Franklin County Engineer's federal funding application on the Alum Creek Drive Widening (State Route 317 to Groveport Road) project. This project will improve 2.6 miles of Alum Creek Drive, including a third through lane in each direction to existing Alum Creek Drive. Pedestrian facilities (sidewalk on one side and a shared-use-path on the other) will also be installed. In addition, the existing Alum Creek Drive bridges over Big Walnut Creek will be replaced.

CRAA manages a system of three airports in Central Ohio, including Rickenbacker International Airport. Alum Creek Drive is a principal arterial for both freight and passenger traffic and provides primary access from I-270 to Rickenbacker International Airport as well as to the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal, which supports the City of Columbus, Franklin County, the State of Ohio, and beyond. This project will increase the capacity of the roadway and implement complete street facilities to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists in the corridor.

These improvements will help ensure that the Rickenbacker Area's transportation infrastructure is providing safe and efficient movement of people and goods from place to place. The additional capacity of this project will also allow the existing transit routes to continue playing an essential role in the efficient movement of supply chain materials, will maintain access to existing businesses, and support additional development in the region, which in turn will create new employment centers.

If you would like any additional information on how this project will impact our agency, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph R. Nardone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Joseph R. Nardone  
President & CEO