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February 22, 2023

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

Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing today to express One Columbus' strong support for the Franklin County Engineer's Office's RAISE Grant Program funding application for the Alum Creek Drive Widening project.

One Columbus is the economic development organization for the 11-county Columbus Region. Working with local and state partners, One Columbus serves as the business location resource for companies across Central Ohio and around the world as they grow, innovate and compete within the global economy. Our experienced team has worked with hundreds of companies and helped to secure over \$10 billion in capital investment, over 50,000 direct jobs and more than \$2 billion of new payroll across the Columbus Region. Transportation infrastructure fuels the economic engine of Columbus by providing for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the 11-county Region. Ensuring that this essential infrastructure is safe and equitable for the Region's 2.2 million residents is therefore a top priority for our organization.

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 (a sidewalk on one side and a shared-use-path on the other) will also be installed. The existing Alum Creek Drive bridges over Big Walnut Creek will also be replaced. Alum Creek Drive is a principal arterial for both freight and passenger traffic and provides primary access from I-270 to Rickenbacker International Airport and Rail Intermodal, 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.

One Columbus' mission is to lead a comprehensive regional growth strategy that develops and attracts the world's most competitive companies, grows a highly adaptive workforce, prepares our communities for the future and inspires corporate, academic and public innovation throughout the Columbus Region. This mission is impossible to successfully achieve without a strong regional transportation infrastructure system. In metro areas like Columbus that drive the American economy, solid transportation infrastructure is critical to attracting employers, sustaining economic growth and ensuring that all workers can safely access jobs. By increasing the capacity of Alum Creek Drive, this project will play an essential role in the efficient movement of supply chain materials, maintain access to existing businesses and support additional economic development in the Region for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Patton".

Mark Patton
Executive Vice President and General Manager