

February 10, 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:

The Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Franklin County Engineer's federal funding application for the Alum Creek Drive Widening (State Route 317 to Groveport Road) project. This project will widen a 2.6-mile portion of Alum Creek Drive that has become a bottle neck. This corridor is critical for the movement of freight and employees in the area. It is imperative that sidewalks and shared-use paths be installed for safety.

Transportation infrastructure drives the economic engine of any region by providing safe and efficient movement of people and goods from place to place. Alum Creek Drive is a principal artery for both freight and passenger traffic and provides primary access from I-270 to Rickenbacker International Airport and the Norfolk Southern 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.

The additional capacity will 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 the Rickenbacker area, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Angie Átwood REAN Coordinator

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## REAN MEMBER COMPANIES

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