



May 14, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County (CBICC) and the public and private investors comprising the Centre County Economic Development Partnership wish to reiterate support for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's application to the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program for funding to complete the I-99/I-80 Interchanges project in Centre County, PA. The project will replace the functionally obsolete I-80 Exit 161 (Bellefonte) Interchange with modern interchange facilities and access improvements that will eliminate heavy traffic congestion between the two interstates that negatively impacts commerce, tourism, and new business investment into the region.

Congestion at the current I-80 east- and westbound ramps at the Bellefonte interchange, particularly during morning and evening rush hours, and on holiday and Penn State football weekends, hinders efficient traffic flow, and poses considerable safety risks and costly delays for motorists.

This is particularly concerning for the Centre County region because our economy is primarily people-based, from the 11,000+ workers traveling here from neighboring counties each day for employment, to the tens of thousands of students who attend the main campus of Penn State University, to the 100,000+ visitors who converge on Centre County during college football weekends.

Completion of the high-speed interchange will greatly improve and enhance Centre County's transportation system to the benefit of our county and the surrounding central Pennsylvania region, and to the benefit of all motorists traveling to, from and through Centre County.

The local and regional businesses, organizations and municipalities that have signed on to this letter represent the growing support base for this project. On their behalf, I respectfully ask you to approve PennDOT's application and recommend to Congress that this project receive funding.

Sincerely,

Vern Squier, CCE, PaCCE
President and CEO - Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County
Centre County Economic Development Partnership

AccuWeather
Goodco Mechanical
Centre Regional Planning Agency
Homeland Manufacturing Services
Actuated Medical, Inc.
Hotel State College
Ameron Construction, Inc.
BHGRE Commercial – GSA Realty
Bellefonte Intervalley Area Chamber of Commerce
Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science &
Technology
Centre County Gazette
Chemcut Corporation
Grabrick-Shadle Agency
Harris Township
Howard Fire Company No. 1 Inc.
Hugh A. Mose, transportation consultant
Identified Technologies
Keller Engineers
One-Stop Communications
PBCI-Allen Mechanical and Electrical
Shaner Companies
Spring Township
Urban Engineers

Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County
Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau
Penn State University
Centre County Commissioners
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.
Ferguson Township
Bellefonte Borough
Clinton County Commissioners
Converse Consultants
eLoop llc
First National Bank
Frost & Conn, Inc.
Larson Design Group
M&T Bank
McCormick Taylor, Inc.
Nearth Company
N.W. Fritz Trucking
OJ Johnston Consulting
RE/MAX Centre Realty
Restek Corp.
TransAssociates Engineering
Tanglewood Acres
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce