

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 19, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for funding in the FY18 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. Funding will be used to make improvements to the Central Business District in Youngstown, Ohio that includes Fifth Avenue, Park Avenue, Rayen Avenue, Commerce Street, Federal Street, Phelps Street and Front Street.

The enhancements of the Central Business District and nearby manufacturing plants will provide greater multimodal access between key employers in the Mahoning Valley. I understand that this enhancement will increase safety and improve pedestrian movement between educational institutions and jobs. As the Mahoning Valley continues to face high unemployment, investing in job creation through transportation improvements is vital to driving economic activity in Northeast Ohio.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grants coordinator, Jason Knox, at 614-469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator