



CITY OF CHILLICOTHE

LUKE M. FEENEY
MAYOR

35 SOUTH PAINT STREET
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601-0457
PHONE: 740-774-1185
LUKE.FEENEY@CHILLICOTHEOH.GOV

March 5, 2020

Michelle May
Highway Safety Program – Program Manager
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Ms. May,

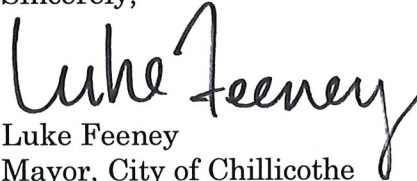
I write to follow up on the Ross County-Bridge Street Safety Project presentation and offer support for the project from the City of Chillicothe. Our traditional process for committing matching funds for future ODOT Safety or other projects is to send a request to City Council asking for a resolution to commit to support to the project. At this stage in the project, I don't believe we have enough information to go in front of Council with a request today, but I am prepared to go to Council when the timing becomes appropriate.

After consulting with the City Auditor, Kristal Spetnagel, we agree that we can go to City Council with a request of up to one million dollars to support the project. Auditor Spetnagel insisted that we also commit to Council that we would seek other funding sources to support the project and potentially offset portions of the City obligation, but she felt confident that our current financial position could support the amount referenced above. The City is also committed to working with District 9 to support any funding they might seek.

The Auditor and I agree that while this amount is significantly larger than anything the City has committed to previously, we can craft a plan that will be manageable for our budget. Simply put the project is of such significance for the community that we can't afford to *not* invest in it; I believe it truly is a once in a generation opportunity.

I appreciate your support and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


Luke Feeney
Mayor, City of Chillicothe



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Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 W. Broad St
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Dear Advisory Council,

I am happy to offer this letter of support for the ODOT District 9's Bridge Street (SR-159)/US 35 Interchange Improvement project TRAC funding application. The project will provide significant safety improvements to the corridor, reduce congestion and create much needed pedestrian facilities.

Chillicothe continues to grow as a regional destination for shopping, dining and tourism and with a World Heritage Site Designation coming we expect to see traffic volume continue to grow. I have personally worked closely with District 9 as this project has developed and believe that the impact on the community and region will be significant.

The City of Chillicothe recently submitted a Transportation Alternative Planning (TAP) grant application to support this project and will contribute local dollars to the project. In addition to this letter of support our City Council also passed a resolution supporting the TRAC application.

I enthusiastically support this project and the District 9 TRAC application and sincerely appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Luke Feeney
Mayor

Proposed by:
Engineering Committee

Read 3-22-21
Passed 3-22-21

RESOLUTION NO. 6-21

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TRAC APPLICATION TO SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR A BRIDGE STREET PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City has worked closely with ODOT District 9 in the development of the ROS-159-0.41 Bridge Street Project; and,

WHEREAS, the City believes the project is crucial for both the long term safety and economic development of the corridor and the community, as the corridor is the most heavily traveled in Ross County and all of District 9; and,

WHEREAS, the project includes elements such as exit and on ramp improvements, lane improvements and widening, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities that will improve the safety, accessibility and traffic flow of the corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the City recently submitted its own Transportation Alternative Planning grant application to support this project and is committed to contributing local matching dollars to this project; and,

WHEREAS, safety issues of the corridor, particularly the State Route 35 eastbound exit ramp, are well known and documented and in desperate need of being fixed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHILLICOTHE, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. Council of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio, hereby supports the ODOT TRAC Funding Project application to secure additional funding for the ROS-159-0.41 Bridge Street Improvement Project.

SECTION 2. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare. The reason for such necessity is to meet the project application deadline of March 26, 2021.

Passed: March 22, 2021



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Attest:



CLERK OF COUNCIL

Approved: March 22, 2021

FILED WITH THE MAYOR



MAYOR

March 22, 2021

Voting "yea" were the following members of Council: Phillips, Payne,
Nickerson, Tetman, Lewis, Shoemaker,
Concoan and Proehl. (Gillum Absent)



visit Chillicothe Ohio . com

TRAC
ODOT
1980 West Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Advisory Council,

The Ross County Convention & Visitors Bureau supports the ODOT District 9 Bridge Street (SR – 159) and US 35 Interchange Improvement Project. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and reduce congestion along Bridge Street corridor and US 35 interchange in Ross County.

We see visitors from all over world, visiting our Earthworks, trails, Historical Attractions, and our beloved Outdoor Drama Tecumseh! As we are nearing the inscription of a World Heritage Site the increase visitation to our area has already began, the safety of patrons on Bridge St / US Rt 35 is top of mind. We need the ease of traffic for visitors.

We appreciate the consideration for our region, the safety of residents and visitors is important for our future.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Ross Chillicothe Visitors Bureau



TRAC
ODOT
1980 West Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Advisory Council,

The Ross County Convention Facility Authority supports the ODOT District 9 Bridge Street (SR – 159) and US 35 Interchange Improvement Project. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and reduce congestion along Bridge Street corridor and US 35 interchange in Ross County.

People travel from all over the USA to visit Ross County, the hotels that set near the interchange see over 75,000 visitors annually this would help our visitors navigate thru our business district and have more access to our Historic Downtown area. The impact of these improvements will enhance future economic development for new and existing businesses.

Future development of a conference center on North Plaza Boulevard would need the ease of access for patrons while traveling around Ross County.

We appreciate the consideration for our region, the safety of residents and visitors in top of our mind as we look toward the future.

Sincerely,


Board of Directors
Ross County CFA



73 Progress Drive
Waverly, OH 45690
740-947-2853
800-223-7491 (in Ohio)
www.ovrdc.org

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43223

Dear Advisory Council,

The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) supports the ODOT District 9 Bridge Street (SR-159) and US 35 Interchange Improvement project (PID 113013) for TRAC funding consideration. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and reduce congestion along the Bridge Street corridor and the US 35 interchange in Ross County. This section of Bridge Street has continually appeared on ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program statewide, district, and county rankings during the years of 2014 – 2018.

People travel from all over our region to shop, eat, and visit entertainment venues located along this corridor. Improving this corridor will not only allow current businesses to thrive but also expand economic development opportunities for other potential businesses. The impact of these improvements will be felt far beyond Ross County. OVRDC considers this project a regionally significant project for this reason and hopes to see it move forward as soon as possible.

Considering the massive infrastructure needs in our region, OVRDC appreciates your consideration of this opportunity to maximize TRAC program dollars in our region toward a safe, efficient, and well-maintained transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Hemmings, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

John W. Hemmings, III
Executive Director