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August 7, 2002

Mr. Myron Pakush
Deputy Director
Ohio Department of Transportation
2201 Reiser Ave.
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Dear Myron:

Thank you for your continued support for the Pittsburgh-Columbus Corridor concept and efforts to improve Eastern Ohio competitiveness through growing our multi-modal transportation capabilities.

Please accept this letter and the attached resolution of the Jefferson County Commissioners in lieu of testimony at the August 21 hearing in Cadiz, Ohio concerning transportation projects in the region.

In particular, I want to join others in supporting a linkage of the completed or soon-to-be-completed four-lane sections in this corridor. In particular, I believe the completion of a linkage between US Route 36 at Newcomerstown and US Route 22 at Cadiz is critical.

As you know, there are many reasons this project and completing this highway corridor are critical to the economic well-being and safety of the citizens of Central and Eastern Ohio. The benefits include:

- Improving the entire corridor's access to highway, air, rail, water, and intermodal transportation assets. For example, much of the region west of Steubenville will benefit from improved ability to access the Pittsburgh International Airport's daily, non-stop flights to Europe as well as the Ohio River's many multi-modal river terminals.
- Relieving growing traffic burdens in the tri-state region by providing an alternative east-west highway corridor that is lower-cost to upgrade than widening I-70.
- Providing a safer alternative for the efficient flow of truck traffic on I-70 between Wheeling and Columbus and U.S. 250 between Cadiz and New Philadelphia.
- Creating a mutually-beneficial economic and trade link between Pittsburgh and Columbus that will, as the success of other completed corridors like I-75 have shown, benefit every smaller community between these two major metro areas.

The reasons are more numerous than one can mention in a letter or in testimony. You are right to focus on this corridor and the Cadiz-to-Newcomerstown linkage as a major priority project in Eastern Ohio that is lapsed by no other project conceived.

Sincerely,

RICK PLATT
Executive Director