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February 22, 2024

Cait Harley Active Transportation Manager Ohio Department of Transportation 1980 West Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43223

Dear Cait,

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission would like to express its enthusiastic support for the City of Pickerington's Safe Routes to School application on Lockville Rd. This project will construct over a mile of new sidewalk connecting residential neighborhoods to Pickerington Central High School and the future junior high school.

The existing infrastructure on Lockville Road is lacking pedestrian accommodations for students walking to school. Many students can be found walking to school in the roadway, and this project seeks remedy this issue by providing sidewalks along Lockville Road. Growing ADT along the corridor further emphasizes the need for improved pedestrian accommodations along this corridor.

Advancing projects like these, which seek to increase connectivity of existing infrastructure and reduce potential for non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries, helps to achieve key objectives identified in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This project will not only help to meet these important regional objectives, but it will also help to promote the overall Safe Routes to School mission.

We are in support of the proposed infrastructure project, as it will provide facilities to encourage more children to walk and bike to school safely, as well as support greater community walkability. Thank you for considering the benefits of Pickerington's Lockville Road Safe Routes to School project. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Graham at (614) 233 - 4193.

Kind Regards,

Nicholas T. Gill

Transportation Study Director