

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2011

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Chairman  
House Committee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you formulate your plan for listening sessions in preparation for the next surface transportation authorization, we urge you to conduct one of your sessions in the vicinity of the Brent Spence Bridge.

The Brent Spence Bridge spans the Ohio River between Covington, KY and Cincinnati, OH. Over \$400 billion of freight (three-percent of GDP) crosses the Brent Spence Bridge every year with an expected increase in real dollars to \$830 billion by 2030.

We believe that a listening session at the Brent Spence Bridge would enable you to learn firsthand from local officials and citizens about a Project of National Significance. Specifically, you would have an excellent opportunity to learn more about a functionally obsolete transportation node that impacts our nation as a whole. Despite attempts, Congress has not established a sufficient mechanism for funding mega-projects whose benefits are national, but whose costs are so high they cannot be funded by one or two States.

As you know, this bridge connects Canada to Florida via I-75, as well as Ohio to the western United States via I-71. It also feeds traffic and freight into Chicago via I-74 and all the way to Alabama via I-65. The Brent Spence Bridge is essential infrastructure to the American economy.

Major transportation bottlenecks cause thousands of hours of delay and have a negative impact on individual travelers, commuters, families, truckers, shippers and receivers particularly when the routes they travel are hostage to underfunded infrastructure nodes of national significance.

We are confident that seeing the challenges faced at the Brent Spence Bridge first hand will improve your understanding of this critical issue that must be addressed in the next surface transportation bill. By adequately funding Projects of National Significance, we can hasten economic recovery and put Americans back to work. Additionally, doing so will help us to restore our world class transportation system for the movement of people and goods. The Brent Spence Bridge is one example of a transportation mega-project that is critical infrastructure to the American economy.

We stand ready to facilitate all aspects of your visit. Thank you for your service and attention to our request. Please contact Dan Adelstein at (202) 225-3465 or [dan.adelstein@mail.house.gov](mailto:dan.adelstein@mail.house.gov) in Congressman Geoff Davis' office if you need additional information or assistance from any of our offices.

Sincerely,



GEOFF DAVIS  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR



SHERROD BROWN  
UNITED STATES SENATOR



STEVE CHABOT  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



BEN CHANDLER  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



BRETT GUTHRIE  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS