



November 2, 2018

Ron Heustis
Indiana Department of Transportation
Seymour District
185 Agrico Lane
Seymour, IN 47274

Dear Mr. Heustis,

As INDOT and KYTC consider the different options available for rehabilitating the Sherman Minton Bridge, Greater Louisville Inc., the Metro Chamber of Commerce, urges the Project Team to carefully consider how these decisions will impact businesses and economic growth in our region. While we fully appreciate the long-term importance and necessity of this project, it is vital that construction minimally impede the movement of workers and consumers between Indiana and Kentucky.

Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI) is an economic development organization and chamber of commerce, representing 1,600 businesses across 15 counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Our mission is to accelerate economic growth, job creation, and business competitiveness throughout our region. Approximately one-third of the businesses that GLI represents are located in Indiana, with many of them in the New Albany area. Virtually all Greater Louisville companies do business on both sides of the river, and much of our regional workforce travels across the Ohio to get to and from work.

To underscore these points, we wanted to share with you commentary from a few GLI-investor companies on how this project will impact them.

- **From Horseshoe Southern Indiana:** "Horseshoe Southern Indiana is a regional destination attracting nearly 1.6 million customers annually. Horseshoe is also a sizeable Kentuckiana employer with 1300 team members serving our guests 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Sherman Minton Bridge is relied upon from guests and team members on both sides of the river. During the sudden bridge closure in 2011, we witnessed travel delays, rising fuel expenses, and declining wages. Maintaining safe use of the bridge during the renovation will allow for continued regional growth in both Kentucky and Indiana."
- **From PC Home Stores:** "PC has two locations, one in downtown New Albany and one in Sellersburg. The New Albany location is our main store. It gets a lot of customers from Louisville and delivers material via the Sherman Minton Bridge. We are Kentuckiana's only independent locally owned provider of building material and about 80% of our sales go into the Louisville market. We employ 115 people. I am asking that you do the very best you can to complete the reconstruction of the SMB in as quick a time frame as possible. This bridge is very important to the profits of PC."

- **From Baptist Health Floyd:** “Baptist Health Floyd is the major referral hospital for seven surrounding counties in Southern Indiana and employs more than 2000 healthcare providers and staff. Many of our patients, families, and employees use the Sherman Minton bridge every day to get to and from the hospital. Although we are very supportive of maintaining our infrastructure, a complete closure of the bridge would have a significant impact on our ability to provide medical care.”

This is just a sampling of the comments we have received from GLI investors. We encourage the Project Team to keep in mind the needs and economic contributions of businesses like Horseshoe, PC, and Baptist Health Floyd as the planning process for the bridge moves forward. Rebuilding our regional infrastructure is critical for both safety and economic progress, but it needs to be done in such a way that the short-term impact on current businesses is minimal.

We look forward to staying in contact and working with the Project Team as planning and construction move forward. If GLI can be of assistance throughout any stage of this project, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



Kent Oyler
President & CEO

CC:

Greg Thomas, Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Joe McGuiness, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation
Jessica Goodwin, PE, KYTC Division of Maintenance