



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL OFFICE • 1980 WEST BROAD STREET • COLUMBUS, OH 43223

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR • JOLENE M. MOLITORIS, DIRECTOR

July 14, 2010

Ms. Eileen Y. Paley, Council Member
Columbus City Council
90 West Broad St
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Council Member Paley,

Per your request in the July 13, 2010 Interstate 70-71 Project Briefing with ODOT, I would like to provide the following explanation of the importance of passing Preliminary Legislation for the First Project, which includes the Interstate 670/71 Interchange in Downtown Columbus.

In order to assure that project development proceeds in a timely manner, the legislation will need to be fully executed and returned to the District Six Office no later than August 16, 2010. This is to allow time for review and approval of the Design-Build Specifications by the Federal Highway Administration by the September 15, 2010 deadline.

The Design-Build bidding process is then scheduled to run through late May 2011 or near the end of the state fiscal year (June 30, 2011). A one month delay at this time would jeopardize the ability to use the Design-Build approach, as ODOT's legislative authority to use this approach on projects of this size is set to expire at the end of the State Fiscal Year. ODOT would then need to sell the project by traditional methods, which will result in a two year delay in order to complete the detail design for bidding.

I look forward to our continued cooperation on this project. Should you have questions or require additional information please contact Mr. Thomas Wester, District Six Deputy Director at 740-833-8211.

Sincerely,


Jolene M. Molitoris
Director

JMM:jk

Cc: T. Wester, ODOT District 6