

# *Erie Regional Planning Commission*



## *Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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*Director: Tim King*

*Planning for the future of Erie County*

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March 23, 2023

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor  
77 South High Street, 30 Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

Please recognize this letter of support to reconvene the US 23 Connectivity Corridor plan that had previously been ended early, as it promotes a free-flowing connection between Northwest Ohio and Columbus.

The Erie Regional Planning Commission Metropolitan Planning Organization (ERPC MPO) stands in support with TMACOG and regional partners for the continuation of the study. The US 23 Connectivity Corridor, with its focus on the current congestion in Delaware, aligns with ERPC MPO's current long range plans. The proposed plan would have a positive impact for our area's freight movement and tourism, as well as aligns with goals from our 2022 Freight Plan for improved north-south connections into the county. Our offices were dismayed at the early ending of the Phase 1 study, and believe any improved connections between northwest Ohio and the growing Columbus metropolitan area would benefit Erie County as well.

While current costs may be prohibitive, the roadway is currently exceeding demand than it had previously been designed to accommodate. With the growing population of the Columbus metropolitan area, including the Intel investment, and the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge promoting international commerce, congestion on the highway will not be expected to alleviate. We believe it is imperative for ODOT to pursue a long-term solution.

For these reasons, the ERPC MPO supports the continued development and implementation of an improved highway connection connecting Columbus to the Northwest Ohio region, and urges ODOT to continue working towards increasing connectivity between our areas.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Shenigo', is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Shenigo  
President—ERPC MPO