



*The
Lancaster
Chamber*
of Commerce & Industry

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June 19, 2006

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
221 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pitts:

On behalf of The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry, we are writing to express our support for new dedicated federal funding for needed improvements to the Route 30 interchange at State Road 230 (Harrisburg Pike) in Lancaster County. In recognizing the safety concerns and delays experienced at this interchange, coupled with high peak travel volumes, we are recommending consideration of the redesign of the interchange, pending the appropriation of new dedicated federal funding (which is separate from and in addition to current funding for the County's Transportation Improvement Program.) We ask for your support in securing the appropriate funds.

The economic prosperity of Lancaster County is demonstrated in numerous, sustained economic development projects that are occurring throughout the County, with a concentration in the city and the neighboring townships. Manheim Township and the City of Lancaster have experienced much growth in the corridor surrounding the Route 30/State Road 230 interchange, including the expansion of the Lancaster General Health Campus, the continued success of Park City Center, as well as annual arts and cultural events at Long's Park. Additionally, this interchange serves as one of the significant gateways to the City of Lancaster and leads residents to Clipper Stadium, Franklin & Marshall College, and the City's downtown, while also providing crucial access to major businesses and authorities including Armstrong World Industries and the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority.

While we recognize that federal funds were appropriated for the redesign and expansion of this interchange in the mid 1990's, we are now confronted with traffic volumes at this interchange that exceed capacity – all as a result of the continued economic development and growth of Lancaster County. The Chamber strongly supports that development is concentrated in designated urban growth areas to allow for continued preservation of our farms and agricultural communities. Strengthening the infrastructure in these urban growth areas is critical to the success of our urban/suburban areas as well as that of our agricultural communities and economies.

We appreciate any support you can lend to this effort and ask that you seek new, dedicated federal funding to support needed improvements at the Route 30 and State Road 230 interchange. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ritter
Chair, The Lancaster Chamber
President & CEO
Sterling Financial Trust Company

Thomas T. Baldrige
President
The Lancaster Chamber

Cc: Gabe Neville, Chief of Staff; Tom Tillet, District Chief of Staff

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