January 31, 2014

Mr. Jerry Wray, Director  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
1980 W. Broad Street  
Columbus OH 43223

RE: State Route 8 Redesignation as Interstate 380

Dear Director Wray,

Thanks to the hard work of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and its planning partners, including the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), and local governments throughout Summit County, State Route 8 was recently completed as a limited-access, multi-lane freeway between Akron’s Central Interchange (I-76/77) and I-271 in Macedonia.

As such, we, the undersigned, believe that State Route 8 is now deserving of an Interstate designation, due to its high volume of traffic, the connectivity that it provides, and its functional importance as one of the region’s most significant freeway facilities.

Designating this important roadway as an Interstate highway will provide several significant advantages to the region:

- Improved way-finding to major attractions
- Benefits in terms of jobs and commerce for businesses located in the corridor
- Raising the roadway’s profile with officials charged with administrative and transportation funding decisions, commensurate with its functional importance

Attached you will find a brief memorandum from AMATS, explaining why we, the undersigned, believe that State Route 8 should be designated as Interstate 380 between I-76/77 and I-271.

On October 31, 2013, AMATS submitted a proposal to this effect to the Ohio Department of Transportation District 4 for its consideration.

The proposal has also been covered by various print and broadcast media outlets in the region, including the Akron Beacon Journal. All indications are that the idea has been met with public support.

We understand that ODOT Central Office is currently in the process of evaluating this proposal. We hope that, after careful consideration, your administration will be in a position to concur, and will agree to submit a formal request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to redesignate State Route 8 as Interstate 380.

Cooperative transportation planning by the Village, City and County governments of Portage and Summit Counties, and a portion of Wayne County; in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Ohio Department of Transportation.
January 31, 2014
Page 2

Both AMATS, and the local governments throughout the State Route 8 corridor, lend you our full support and would be willing to help co-sponsor a formal request to FHWA for Interstate highway designation.

We very much look forward to working with ODOT to further this proposal. AMATS would be happy to host a meeting between ODOT and the local governments in the corridor to discuss this proposal further, should you find it helpful.

Very Warmest Regards,

Mayor Donald Plusquellic
City of Akron

Mayor Don Walters
City of Cuyahoga Falls

Mayor Sara Drew
City of Stow

Mayor William Currin
City of Hudson

Mayor William Goncy
Village of Boston Heights

Mayor Don Kuchta
City of Macedonia

Russell M. Pry, Executive
County of Summit

Alan Brubaker, PE, PS
Summit County Engineer

Jason Segedy
Director, AMATS