



October 31, 2013

Mr. Anthony Urankar
ODOT District 4
2088 South Arlington Road
Akron OH 44306

Dear Mr. Urankar,

Due to the hard work of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and its planning partners such as AMATS, State Route 8 has now been completed as a limited-access, multi-lane freeway between Akron's Central Interchange (I-76/77) and I-271 in Macedonia. As such, I 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.

By redesignating this important roadway as an Interstate highway, we see significant advantages to the region, including improved way finding to major attractions; benefits in terms of jobs and commerce to businesses located in the corridor; and potential positive impacts on future federal funding levels for the state of Ohio and for the roadway itself.

Attached you will find a brief memorandum from AMATS, recommending that State Route 8 be redesignated as Interstate 380 between I-76/77 and I-271. The memorandum discusses why we think this change is important, and briefly describes how the redesignation might occur. It is my understanding, given existing federal requirements contained within *Section 103(c)(4)(A), Title 23, United States Code (23 U.S.C.)*, that this roadway is an ideal candidate for redesignation as an Interstate highway.

Therefore, I am writing to request that ODOT consider concurring with and supporting this recommendation. The AMATS staff has approached the local governments in the State Route 8 corridor with this proposal, and has received their concurrence and support. It is my hope that ODOT will carefully consider this proposal and will ultimately agree to co-sponsor this proposal with AMATS. I believe that a joint request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) from ODOT and AMATS would be quite well-received, and that having this important roadway incorporated into the Interstate Highway System would provide significant benefit to our region.

I very much look forward to working with ODOT to further this proposal. Please feel free to contact me with any follow-up questions or comments.

Very Warmest Regards,

Jason Segedy
Director