



CITY OF NAPOLEON

255 W. Riverview Avenue, PO Box 151, Napoleon, OH 43545

Phone: 419-592-4010 - Fax: 419-599-8393

January 15, 2010

Mayor

J. Andrew Small

Members of Council

Glenn A. Miller, President

Terri A. Williams

Michael J. DeWit

Travis B. Sheaffer

John A. Helberg

Jeffrey Lankenau

James Hershberger

City Manager

Dr. Jon A. Bisher

Finance Director

Gregory J. Heath

Law Director

David M. Grahn

City Engineer

Chad Lulfs, P.E.

Senator Sherrod Brown
Hart Senate Office Building Suite 713
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

As Mayor of the City of Napoleon my top priority is the well being of the citizens of Napoleon. Currently the area that needs the most improvement is job retention and creation. In stable economic times any potential for job creation cannot be overlooked and in poor economic times economic development opportunities must be aggressively fostered and pursued. Some assistance from government is required for any economic development to occur; this includes tax incentives, zoning changes, and infrastructure projects. Without the proper incentives very little development will occur. Of those incentives, infrastructure projects may be the most important. Since long before our country was founded, economic prosperity and development has revolved around transportation and infrastructure. Cities were created along rivers and rails, industrial facilities located close to major highways and ports, and commercial operations developed in communities with a supportive populace and government. Whether it was the Panama Canal or the new U.S. Route 24, economic development increases when good infrastructure projects are created, maintained and, when warranted, upgraded.

Napoleon needs an infrastructure project to connect one of the largest industrial facilities in Northwest Ohio to the new and improved U.S. Route 24. The infrastructure project I am referring to is the new Maumee River Crossing Project. This bridge will cross the Maumee River and connect Campbell's Soup Plant and the other industrial facilities located on the South side of the river with Campbell's cold storage facilities and the new and improved U.S. 24, on the North side of the river. This bridge will make Napoleon's two industrial sectors one large industrial region which will entice new facilities to locate in Napoleon and be a huge incentive for existing companies to expand.

Economic development happens when government entities take infrastructure seriously. I can wholeheartedly say Napoleon takes economic development and infrastructure seriously and I am sure you do as well. The City of Napoleon would appreciate any help and support you can provide for the New Maumee River Bridge Project.

Warmest regards,

J. Andrew Small