



Henry County Engineer

Timothy J. Schumm, P.E., P.S.

E-mail: hce@henrycountyohio.com

660 North Perry Street, Courthouse, Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Website: www.henrycountyengineer.com

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The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Campbell Soup Plant is the main driving force behind Henry County's, and especially Napoleon's, economic stability. As Henry County's largest employer, as well as Campbell's largest soup plant, the Napoleon plant directly employs over 1,700 people, and support companies provide jobs to over 400 more. Currently there are two main industrial areas in the City of Napoleon which are separated by the Maumee River and are almost directly across the river from each other. The Campbell's plant campus is located south of the river and most other industrial businesses on the south side, including Keller Logistics, Silgan Manufacturing, and Amcor PET Packaging, service Campbell's operational needs. The north industrial area is home to numerous businesses, including a few that also serve Campbell's operational needs.

Currently Napoleon has only one bridge across the Maumee River. The current bridge does not adequately connect Napoleon's two industrial areas and is a place of major traffic congestion and accidents. A new bridge would provide better access to main highways and railways, link partnered industrial facilities, and provide long term regional economic benefits.

The County Engineer and the County Commissioners have committed future funding to the project totaling \$4.5 million. Some of this money will be spent up front and the rest will be secured with bonds, notes and/or loans. The Office of the County Engineer has already spent \$1,164,489 toward preconstruction activities, with additional money encumbered to take this project through the remainder of the pre-construction activities.

The County Engineer's office understand and accepts the responsibility to maintain this bridge. County Commissioners and I strongly encourage consideration of the grant application.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Schumm, P.E., P.S.
County Engineer