



Brent Spence Bridge Corridor  
Public Hearing  
February 20, 2024  
Chris Kershner  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

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Thank you to the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for hosting this hearing today. I am Chris Kershner, President & CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Dayton Area Logistics Association, representing over 2,200 businesses in the 14-county greater Dayton region.

The Brent Spence Bridge project is a \$3.6 billion interstate improvement project that will have significant impact on the business and economic development of our region. This project will not only improve workforce commuting and position the broader region as more attractive for residents, but it will also position locations like the interchange of I-70/I-75 in Dayton as an epicenter for logistics, manufacturing and distribution. In today's manufacturing world that is reliant on "just in time" deliveries, efficient infrastructure with minimal delays is critical economic attractiveness. When trucks are delayed.....assembly lines are shut down.....and workers are sent home. Ensuring that the Brent Spence Corridor is efficiently running, it critical to maximizing global economic attractiveness for ALL of us.

St. Onge is a world-recognized supply chain strategy and logistics consulting firm. St. Onge released a report that identified the Dayton region as one of the most optimal geographic locations in the country for the supply chain logistics and distribution. Citing the Dayton area as a "Megaregion," for logistics companies because of access to 60% of the nation's population that is within one day's drive of I-70/I-75 interchange.

Dayton region logistics and distribution companies have a \$3.5 billion annual economic impact and support over 40,000 direct jobs. Downtown Dayton is only 56 miles to north on I-75 from where we are sitting today. Improving the Brent Spence will not only positively impact Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, but it impacts ALL communities relying on I-75/I-71 interstates for economic success.

A special recognition to the ODOT District 8 team that has made DBE and D&I supplier diversity a priority as they been doing outreach to diverse suppliers and subcontractors in the Dayton region to ensure ALL companies have an opportunity to be a part of this project.

Thank you for having me today and for your leadership to improve this vital corridor for everyone.