



September 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Frederic M. N. Bertley, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
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Re: West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE)  
Capital Construction and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of COSI, I am writing in support of the Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA) request for funding from Capital Construction and Regional Partnership Challenge Grants within the USDOT NAE Grant Program for the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor.

COSI is the "#1 Science Museum in the Country" as voted by USA Today's 10Best for four years in a row and the recipient of the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. For nearly 60 years, we have been located in Columbus and serving the central Ohio region by inspiring curiosity and interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) topics and delivering our experiential, "hands-on fun" brand of learning.

We are a committed community partner to the city, the region, and all its residents. By increasing the connectivity of the West Broad Street corridor, we will expand access to cultural and educational institutions, like ourselves, removing one persistent barrier to access for many of our central Ohio families. Additionally, by expanding access, increasing safety, and enhancing mobility, the West Broad Street BRT corridor will help to spur further economic development in and around our museum, supporting our neighborhood of Franklinton and the entire West Broad Street corridor.

The West Broad Street BRT corridor is the first rapid transit corridor that will be constructed as part of the regional LinkUS partnership of COTA, City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. LinkUS is Central Ohio's comprehensive mobility initiative to help address growth, affordability, and opportunity gaps in our community.

We believe that the transformational impact that the West Broad BRT will make in our community perfectly aligns with both the Capital Construction and Regional Partnership Challenge Grant components of the NAE Grant. COSI wholeheartedly encourages USDOT to fund this application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,