



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

GOVERNING COMMITTEE

September 19, 2023

Clark C. Kellogg
Chairperson

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

Jeffrey W. Edwards
Vice Chairperson

Jane Grote Abell
George S. Barrett
B.J. Hicks, MD
Lisa Ingram
Katie Wolfe Lloyd
Marchelle E. Moore
Matthew A. Scantland

Re: West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Capital Construction and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants Application

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Douglas F. Kridler
President and CEO

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The Columbus Foundation, 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. 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.

J. Bradley Britton, J.D., LL.M.
Director and General Counsel

Tamera Durrence
Vice President

Scott G. Heitkamp, CPA
Vice President and CFO

Steven Moore
Chief of Staff

Central Ohio is one of the fastest growing regions in the country, and is on track to increase by 726,000 more residents over the next 25 years. Although this growth brings with it much opportunity and new investment, it also presents a complex array of interrelated challenges, including the need to be a more connected community with more transportation options for more people. Despite the general consensus about the need for increased mobility and a multimodal transportation, we know that all long-term solutions begin with specific projects and phases, which is the crucial first step that the West Broad Street BRT corridor represents in our community.

Gregg Oosterbaan
Vice President

Angela G. Parsons, J.D.
Vice President

Dan A. Sharpe
Vice President

Pamela S. Straker
Director

As one of the largest community foundations in the country, we work at the intersection of the many challenges and opportunities facing Columbus and central Ohio. And though there are no finish lines or silver bullet solutions to the most complex issues facing our community or the global community, we know that transportation represents an essential link to opportunity for so many individuals and families, as well as the thousands of nonprofit organizations that serve this community. We believe the impact the West Broad BRT will have in our community perfectly aligns with both the Capital Construction and Regional Partnership Challenge Grant components of the NAE Grant. The Columbus Foundation wholeheartedly encourages USDOT to fund this application, and we thank you for your consideration.

Amy Vick
Vice President

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Kridler
President and CEO
The Columbus Foundation