



**The Honorable Maryellen O'Shaughnessy**  
Franklin County Clerk of Courts

Administration  
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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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September 22, 2023

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

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 the Franklin County Clerk of Courts Office, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for 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 Franklin County Clerk of Courts' Office employs approximately 200 full-time Deputy Clerks that serve in five divisions: Auto Title, Legal, Fiscal Services, Information Technology, and Administration. Four of those divisions are in seven different offices in the Franklin County Courthouse complex. The fifth, Auto Title, is in four branch offices throughout Franklin County. Each division is important to the Franklin County Clerk of Courts' two major functions: management of court documents and issuance of auto titles.

Ensuring that our employees live and work in a community that is committed to improving housing, reducing poverty, increasing safety, and taking climate action in our community, is of great importance to me as an elected official. Additionally, when I was a Columbus (Ohio) City Council Member, I strongly advocated for expanding public transportation. This investment will greatly improve the opportunity gaps along the corridor, which stem from significant socio-economic disparities.

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. Our Office wholeheartedly encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund this application and thank you for your consideration. Thank you in advance for your consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

Maryellen O'Shaughnessy  
Franklin County Clerk of Courts