



CORNELL R. ROBERTSON, P.E., P.S.
FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER

September 20, 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:

As the elected county engineer of Ohio's most populous county in one of the fastest growing regions in the country, 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 among COTA, the 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. It will also advance Federal initiatives including the Columbus Workforce Hub and the National Information Technology Innovation Center; state initiatives including creating a state climate action plan with funding from the U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program; and local initiatives including Equitable Transit Oriented Development, Vision Zero, and the Columbus Climate Action Plan.

Our community is also seeking a USDOT Pilot Program for a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant for the West Broad BRT to help us complete a capacity, economic, and market analysis for transit stops along the corridor. I believe the transformational impact made by the West Broad BRT perfectly aligns with both the Capital Construction and Regional Partnership Challenge Grant components of the NAE Grant. I wholeheartedly encourage USDOT to fund this application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cornell R. Robertson".

Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S.
Franklin County Engineer