



BOARD
OF TRUSTEES

Chair
ARIANA ULLOA-OLAVARRIETA
City of Columbus
Economic Development Division

Vice Chair
AMY MCCORMICK
The Kroger Co.

Secretary/Treasurer
BRENT BAHNUB
Apogee Process Improvement

Immediate Past Chair
AMY GILMORE
IGS Energy

REV. VIRGINIA LOHMANN BAUMAN
St. John's United Church of Christ

CAROL BRADFORD, MD, FACS
The Ohio State University

PRIYAM KHAN
Guidehouse

DONALD DENNIS
Huntington National Bank

ALEX DINOVO
DNO Produce

LILIANA ESPOSITO
The Wendy's Company

DEVIN FUHRMAN
Nationwide Insurance

BRENDAN HEALY
VIUM Capital

ROD HOUPÉ
Education Networks of America

ERIC JOYNER
Cardinal Health

MIKE MCCOY
Bob Evans Foods

TAMMY MCCONNAUGHEY
Bread Financial

TAUANA MCDONALD
Mt. Carmel Hospital – Grove City

BRAD MCLEAN
InnoSource

LACEY PICAZO
ZoCo Design

DAMON PORTER
Grange Insurance

RICH ROSEN
Indigo Strategies

BRIAN SHERRICK
American Electric Power

JIM WEEAST
OhioHealth

STAFF
MATT HABASH
President & CEO

September 12, 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,

Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) supports 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.

MOFC provides efficient, effective ways for hungry people to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. Implementing the construction of the West Broad Street BRT corridor in partnership with the LinkUS mobility initiative will greatly benefit our food insecure customers who currently lack reliable transportation options.

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. 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. The average Central Ohio household spends more than \$12,000 on transportation and the median home sale price is up 68% since 2020. More than 40,000 Franklin County households lack access to a personal vehicle and 1/3 of Franklin County residents live in areas of low opportunity.

Many of our hungry neighbors lack reliable transportation options. The BRT system will facilitate access to our markets, pantries and partners who provide assistance to those in need. This means that they will have better opportunities to receive necessary food support and address their immediate nutritional needs. Most importantly, the BRT system will provide access to fast, efficient, and affordable transportation that will enable food insecure individuals to access essential resources and ultimately improve their overall food security and well-being.

Mid-Ohio Food Collective fully supports LinkUS West Broad Street BRT Corridor's application for funding and encourages USDOT to fund their application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



mid-ohio food
collective

foodbank | farm | farmacy | kitchen | market

