



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is the regional council for Central Ohio and a voluntary membership association of over 80 local governments from urban, rural, and suburban communities. We provide programs, services, and funding related to transportation, community development, data, sustainability, and economic prosperity. MORPC serves as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization, or MPO, for transportation planning in the Columbus urbanized area. This means MORPC has transportation responsibilities and funding per federal law. This letter demonstrates our intent to partner with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) as part of its request for funding from the USDOT for a Neighborhood Access and Equity Capital Construction Grant for the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor project in Columbus, OH.

The West Broad Street BRT corridor is the first rapid transit corridor that will be constructed as part of the regional LinkUS partnership between COTA, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). LinkUS is Central Ohio's comprehensive mobility initiative to help address growth, affordability, and opportunity gaps. LinkUS is designed to construct five rapid transit corridors and increase transit service hours by 45% by 2050, in addition to 500 new miles of sidewalks, bikeways, and trails and \$250 million in complete streets roadway improvements.

The West Broad Street BRT Corridor will provide improved transit options and encourage more people to choose transit, which is recognized as a more equitable and sustainable travel option. This investment will expand access and mobility for traditionally underserved groups. Stations along the alignment will spur further development along the corridor, facilitating sustainable growth for the region. The West Broad Street BRT corridor is a supported project in the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2020-2050; as well as identified as a top priority by the region to Ohio's Transportation Review Advisory Council.


The West Broad Street BRT corridor project will make a transformational impact in Central Ohio while advancing workforce development initiatives and promoting environmental stewardship in the area.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Grooms
Interim Chair

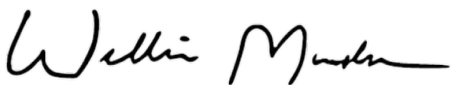
Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary



Securing this funding will leverage the investment already placed in this corridor and enable the Central Ohio Region to grow sustainably.

Kind Regards,



William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

