



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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio is pleased to demonstrate its 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.

Just fifteen minutes outside of downtown Columbus, Prairie Township is home to over eighteen thousand residents and is a growing and developing community. This proposed West Broad Street BRT would allow more travel access for people in and out of our area. Prairie Township is a prime location for the LinkUS project being in the Franklin County area with a great majority of our Township located near West Broad Street. The Neighborhood Access and Equity Capital Construction Grant that COTA is seeking would help fund this necessary project and link our neighborhood communities.

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. Prairie Township would greatly benefit from the West Broad Street BRT project and connect local communities with this new means of transportation.

Sincerely,

Doug Stormont, Trustee

Cathy Schmelzer, Trustee

Rod Pritchard, Trustee

Prairie Township

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