



Representative C. Allison Russo

Minority Leader

The Ohio House of Representatives

September 25, 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 Grants

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the Central Ohio Transit Authority's request for funding from Capital Construction and Regional Partnership Challenge Grants within the U.S. Department of Transportation's Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program to assist in conducting comprehensive capacity, economic, and market analysis of the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

It is my understanding that The West Broad Bus Rapid Transit corridor is projected to support the addition of 40,000 more residents and connect nearly 100,000 jobs by 2040, ushering significant development into the region. I also understand that the areas surrounding the corridor stations will be used to invest in trails, bikeways, accessible pedestrian paths, and sidewalks, helping to bolster transportation opportunities throughout our community. The corridor will run along West Broad Street and connect Prairie Township, Franklin Township, Hilltop, and Franklinton to Downtown Columbus and represents a significant step forward in better connecting our community and addressing socio-economic disparities.

I believe should the Central Ohio Transit Authority be awarded grant funding to aid in the implementation of this project, the funds would go a long way towards bridging opportunity gaps, making workforce transportation options more accessible and affordable, as well as fostering a better connected and more prosperous community.

Thank you for giving your full and fair consideration to the grant application submitted by the Central Ohio Transit Authority and supporting similar infrastructure projects across Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Allison Russo".

C. Allison Russo
House Minority Leader
7th House District