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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

Re: West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH), I write in support of the Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA) request for funding under the Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to conduct comprehensive capacity, economic, and market analysis as well as resource and policy recommendations for the remaining transit stations along the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor.

As the county behavioral health authority for Franklin County, ADAMH provides a pathway to health and healing for individuals and families in seeking resources for addiction and mental health. Too often, the lack of affordable and reliable access to transportation is a major barrier for those seeking treatment and to connect to services. The expansion of public transportation options in the Central Ohio region, like the proposed West Broad Street BRT corridor, will help address many social determinants of health through increased access to healthcare and employment.

The West Broad Street BRT corridor is the first rapid transit corridor that will be constructed as part of the regional LinkUS partnership. LinkUS is Central Ohio's comprehensive mobility initiative to help address growth, affordability and opportunity gaps in our community. In 2022, LinkUS was awarded a Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant from the Build America Bureau and the West Broad Street BRT was accepted into the Small Starts FTA CIG program.

The strong partnership of COTA, the City of Columbus, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and Franklin County and the major impact that the West Broad BRT will make in our community perfectly aligns with Pilot Program for TOD. ADAMH wholeheartedly encourages USDOT to fund this application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erika Clark Jones 

Erika Clark Jones
CEO