



**CORNELL R. ROBERTSON, P.E., P.S.**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER**

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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

**Re: West Broad Street BRT Corridor Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the elected county engineer of Ohio's most populous county in one of the fastest growing regions in the country, I am writing 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.

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. By 2050, LinkUS plans to construct five rapid transit corridors with three already in design. The Pilot Program for TOD is essential to implementing the LinkUS Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Action Plan that will build connected, walkable, and bikeable communities where the existing constituents benefit from new residential and commercial development and are not displaced by it.

The corridor will connect the workforce to Columbus State Community College, a federally designated anchor institution for one of the nation's five regional Workforce Hubs announced this year. Additional resources the grant could provide would be a large step toward making the West Broad Street BRT the first fixed guideway BRT project in Franklin County and one large step toward helping with funding challenges, aging infrastructure, and other uncertainties.

My goal for a stronger infrastructure is enhanced by ongoing partnerships with COTA, the City of Columbus, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. The West Broad BRT will make a major impact in Franklin County as it perfectly aligns with the Pilot Program for TOD. I ask that the USDOT fund this application and move our region forward together. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S.  
Franklin County Engineer