



Brian J. Ellis
President and Chief Operating Officer
Nationwide Realty Investors

September 26, 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:

I am writing to extend my support for 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.

On behalf of Nationwide Realty Investors, the real estate development affiliate of Nationwide, and in alignment with the City of Columbus, I urge your support for this important initiative to help build a more equitable transportation system that supports and connects communities along an important business and residential corridor leading into Downtown Columbus.

The West Broad Street BRT corridor is the first rapid transit corridor that will be constructed as part of the regional LinkUS partnership of COTA, City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. LinkUS is Central Ohio's comprehensive mobility initiative to help address growth, affordability, and opportunity gaps in our community. COTA's West Broad Street BRT corridor includes 17 stations and will run approximately 9.3 miles-along West Broad Street connecting Prairie Township, Franklin Township, Hilltop, and Franklinton to Downtown Columbus.

The Pilot Program for TOD is essential to implementing the LinkUS Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Action Plan. The plan preserves existing housing, businesses, and valued community resources and amenities while creating new housing with an emphasis on affordability and attracting new business investment and job creation. The West Broad BRT is projected to connect residents to 100,000 jobs and support the addition of 40,000 more residents along the corridor by 2040.

Columbus is concurrently seeking Capital Construction and Regional Partnership Challenge Grants within the USDOT Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program for the West Broad Street BRT project.

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As owner and developer of the densely populated Arena District and Grandview Yard mixed-use developments, Nationwide Realty Investors is supportive of infrastructure improvements throughout our region that improve workforce connectivity. I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider the importance of the West Broad Street BRT project to the continued growth and viability of Central Ohio and urge your support of the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Ellis", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Brian J. Ellis

President & COO

Nationwide Realty Investors