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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 – 3505

October 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to draw your attention to the application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) grant program submitted by the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and the City of Columbus, Ohio.

COTA and the City of Columbus are seeking support to construct their LinkUS West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor. With support, COTA and the City of Columbus would begin construction of physical infrastructure along the proposed 9.4-mile corridor. The proposed improvements have the potential to significantly benefit neighborhoods and residents that were negatively affected by the original construction of the adjacent highway network, and the City of Columbus and its partners will increase affordable housing in the corridor as the BRT corridor is constructed. With NAE funding, the partners plan to accelerate and enhance the BRT project and help expand local plans to develop and deliver more affordable housing.

The West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor is a part of Central Ohio's comprehensive transportation initiative to address growth and mobility, called LinkUS. The LinkUS initiative would also study economic and market analysis to determine strategic placement of transit stops and increase multi-modal accessibility, while enabling walkable neighborhoods. In all, LinkUS would position Central Ohio's transit design to meet projected needs of its residents and create broad economic and mobility benefits for households of all incomes in the fast-growing region.

As you consider applications for the NAE grant program, I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the application from COTA and the City of Columbus. Please keep my office updated on the status of this application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator