



33 N. High St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-228-1776



October 10, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing today on behalf of the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) to offer support for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) SMART Grant Program Proposal, "Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) Resiliency for Vehicles in GPS degraded environments."

As the largest public transit provider in Central Ohio, the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) collaborates with government, industry, and the community to increase access to equitable opportunities and to enhance the quality of life for area residents. We provide fixed-route, on-demand, and paratransit services to a region of more than 1.4 million people. By utilizing technology and data, establishing community partnerships, and applying sustainability principles, COTA provides equitable access to jobs, healthcare, and education.

To keep pace with Central Ohio's growth and trajectory, effective transportation will serve as a key building block to our region by providing for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout our community. This grant will further reinforce Central Ohio as a hub that will accelerate the future of transportation and vehicle autonomy with an emphasis on safety and resilience. It also provides a range of benefits that support both our state and local goals around safety and technology innovation while advancing the safe and efficient operation of autonomous vehicles.

All outcomes from this initial planning phase will be aligned with the region's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic related fatalities and injuries. The testing of terrestrial-based PNT technology will lead us to safer connected vehicles and safer roads in our community, specifically in urban areas where GPS is vulnerable to cyberthreats, ensuring that resilient systems are properly evaluated, advanced, and ready for deployment.



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Central Ohio hopes to serve as a model of public, private and nonprofit partnerships. MORPC's partnership on this proposal with The Ohio State University, who have been at the forefront of research and development of complimentary and resilient GPS alternatives, positions our community to move forward together with the goal of making our region the most prosperous in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Patrick Harris  
Vice President, External Relations  
Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)