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**UNION COUNTY
MARYSVILLE**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Union County Community Improvement Corporation
Economic Development Partnership

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October 9, 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 Community Improvement Corporation 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."

The CIC oversees the community's Economic Development program. Working to attract and retain business, foster community partnerships and identify resources to improve the quality of life. The CIC works together with local, regional, and state partners to ensure that the community attracts balanced and sustainable industrial, commercial, and residential development.

To keep pace with the 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 our 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.

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.

This commitment will support our growing region and has the full support of The Community Improvement Corporation.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Phillips
Executive Director