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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

April 26, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to draw your attention to the grant submission for the Williams Road Corridor Plan, submitted by the City of Columbus, in partnership with Franklin County and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) applying for the FY 22 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Program.

Williams Road is an important east-west roadway that provides a connection to those who reside in the south side of Columbus. This road is significant as it plays an important role in the growth in both household and employment within the south side region as it will provide bikeway and pedestrian connection.

The current roadway is heavily travelled by residents and freight, yet it is only two lanes and lacks any bicycle or pedestrian facilities. This has contributed to multiple traffic fatalities and serious injuries. MORPC identified the need for improving the Williams Road corridor as part of its 2018 Rickenbacker Area Study, due to the projected population and employment growth along the corridor. At its current state, the roadway would not be able to support this potential growth and is a hazard for residents who try to use it.

This project will develop a consistent corridor concept for the entire 6.5 miles of the Williams Road corridor that will address the road's challenges such as the adequate safety support of various users and lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This project will significantly improve freight and transportation opportunities along a corridor that includes opportunity zones, areas of persistent poverty, and a historically disadvantaged census tract.

The Williams Road Corridor Plan is consistent with the importance of investing in more accessible infrastructure. As the economy works to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, strategic improvements to improve the efficiency of our nation's infrastructure system will help accelerate the rebound. I ask that the MORPC application be given full and fair consideration for funding in 2022.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator