



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Mike DeWine, *Governor* Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., *Director*

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February 13, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: City of Columbus RAISE Planning Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Ohio Department of Transportation is pleased to support the joint City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) RAISE planning grant application for the Williams Road Corridor Plan project.

The study will involve significant multi-jurisdictional, multi-use, and multi-modal improvements which are far too difficult for any single, local jurisdiction to implement on its own. The project area involves the coordination of three cities (Columbus, Obetz, and Groveport), two townships (Hamilton and Madison), Franklin County, the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, and numerous stakeholders. This planning application is needed to develop a plan for the entire 6.5 mile Williams Road corridor, from the west near the Scioto River, to its east at State Route 317 (Hamilton Road). Williams Road connects two regional freight corridors, US 23 and US 33, that serve as the primary economic connections to southern and southeastern Appalachia Ohio.

Williams Road is an important east-west multi-use corridor as identified in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan as a corridor for significant bikeway and pedestrian connections on Columbus' south side. It also supports the Rickenbacker Airport and Global Logistics Park identified in the 2018 Rickenbacker Area Study. 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. Significant improvements are required to ensure the corridor can safely support everyone who uses it.

I respectfully request consideration of this planning grant application for the City of Columbus.

Respectfully,

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D.
Director