February 6, 2023

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

RE: Mahoning Valley Leveraging Infrastructure for Transportation (LIFT) Project.
United States Department of Transportation
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to support the Western Reserve Transit Authority's (WRTA) 2023 RAISE grant application for the Mahoning Valley *Leveraging Infrastructure for Transportation (LIFT)* Project.

This Project will aid in existing revitalization efforts that seek to transform the City of Youngstown's Market Street Corridor into a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use community and aligns investments in transit with the region's vision for growth and economic development.

Many residents of the Market Street corridor have lower incomes, are older and/or are members of minority groups. Furthermore, these neighborhoods have experienced decades of disinvestment and depopulation.

This Project, rooted in Transit-Oriented Development principles (TOD) and the goal of this Project is to enhance the already good bus service that WRTA provides along Market Street with infrastructure investments at their primary transit hub, Federal Station

This Project inherently contributes to equity by improving transit, pedestrian, and bike facilities used primarily by lower-income and minority citizens at WRTA's Federal Station. It takes advantage of public investment in transit to attract private investment that benefits neighborhoods and drives smart and sustainable growth. An emphasis of this TOD Project is to ultimately empower communities to become dynamic places where people live, work, and play.

I wholeheartedly support WRTA and their efforts to obtain a RAISE grant. I strongly encourage the Department of Transportation to invest in Youngstown, the Mahoning Valley, and the state of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Rachel A. Hrbolich
Diocesan Director
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Youngstown