

The logo for the Western Reserve Port Authority features a stylized red arrow pointing to the right, positioned above the text. The text "WESTERN RESERVE" is in red, and "PORT AUTHORITY" is in white on a blue rectangular background.

**WESTERN RESERVE
PORT AUTHORITY**

January 23, 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:

As the United State Department of Transportation considers applications for funding, I write to bring your attention to the Western Reserve Transit Authority's (WRTA) request for assistance for the Mahoning Valley – Leveraging Infrastructure for Transportation (LIFT) Project.

The Westen Reserve Port Authority's (WRPA) mission is to promote financing and economic development activities across both Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, with a special focus on job creation and project financing. This Project correlates with our mission as it 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 principals (TOD) is not a new type of development so much as a return to the way Youngstown and many other cities across the country were developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when people made most trips on foot or by streetcar. The Market Street corridor is ripe for TOD redevelopment 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 ask you give your full support to 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Trevena", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Anthony Trevena
Executive Director