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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 – 3505

February 15, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As you consider applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, I write to bring your attention to the application submitted by the Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) for the Mahoning Valley Leveraging Infrastructure for Transportation (LIFT) project in Ohio.

WRTA is seeking support to enhance their bus operations in Youngstown, Ohio. By reconstructing its aging, central transit hub, Federal Station, to better serve Youngstown residents, WRTA hopes to accommodate more and newer buses, including zero-emission vehicles. Additionally, the LIFT project is designed to coincide with existing efforts to transform the City of Youngstown's Market Street Corridor by equitably improving transit, pedestrian, and bike facilities. In addition to seeking federal funds to support this project, WRTA plans to leverage additional sources of public funding and private investment.

WRTA provides over 7,000 rides daily, with nearly fifty percent of those rides related to commuting to and from work. Many of residents WRTA serves have no reliable or affordable mode of transportation. WRTA helps meet the needs of residents who would otherwise have no other option, including for students, seniors, residents with disabilities, and citizen who are concerned with the environment. It is critical that transit authorities like WRTA have the support necessary to meet the evolving needs of their residents.

As you evaluate applications for the RAISE Grant Program, please consider the positive impact this proposal could have in increasing access to reliable transportation in Ohio. I ask that you give your full and fair consideration to this request, and keep my office informed of the status of this application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator