



February 8, 2023

Secretary Peter Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
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), aims to enhance the already good bus service 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Ewing".

Barbara Ewing
CEO