

Youngstown City Council

26 S. PHELPS STREET • YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44503



THOMAS HETRICK
President of Council

VALENCIA MARROW, MMC
City Clerk

JENNIFER OZENGHAR
1st Assistant Clerk

January 18, 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 offer support for 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 goal of this project, rooted in Transit-Oriented Development principles (TOD), is to enhance the existing bus service that WRTA provides along Market Street with infrastructure investments at their primary transit hub, known as Federal Station.

This project inherently contributes to equity by improving transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities in some of Youngstown's most distressed neighborhoods. It takes advantage of public investment in transit to attract private investment that benefits the community and drives smart, sustainable growth. An emphasis of this TOD Project is to ultimately work with community residents and leaders to build dynamic, equitable 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,

Thomas A. Hetrick