July 8th, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is committed to securing BUILD funding for the Strategic – Sustainable – Manufacturing – Medical – Academic – Arts – Residential – Recreational – Technology – Training (SMART?) Network that is located in the heart of our metropolitan area, Youngstown, Ohio. Spearheaded regionally, this project is a collaboration of anchor partners of the Mahoning Valley: Youngstown State University, City of Youngstown, Mercy Health Partners, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Eastern Gateway Community College, and numerous others. Eastgate Regional Council of Governments pledges $10,000 in cash. The source of these funds is local funding through our membership dues.

The project significantly benefits the Mahoning Valley and the broader economic region that it supports through:

- Redefinition and reinforcement for the downtown core economy
- Provision of an expanded range of multimodal travel options to connect people to jobs

The transportation investment project described in the BUILD application builds on over a decade of planning and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, regional, state, and federal investment in the last ten years within a quarter mile of the Network. We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project in our community.

Sincerely,

James G. Kinnick, PE
Executive Director
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
July 8th, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Youngstown is committed to securing BUILD funding for the Youngstown SMART² Network. The project significantly benefits the community of Youngstown and the broader economic region.

The City of Youngstown pledges $7,096,826 as in-kind cost share and $500,000 in cash. The source of these funds is local funding, general funds, utility enterprise funds, and state funds; these funds do not originate from any federal source.

The transportation investment project described in the BUILD application builds on over a decade of planning and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, regional, state, and federal investment in the last ten years within a quarter mile of the Network. Federal investment in SMART² will allow Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley region to reverse decades of outward migration and disinvestment by to continuing to build off recent and ongoing public and private partner investments in the project area. We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project in our community.

Sincerely,

Jamael Tito Brown  
Mayor, City of Youngstown
July 6, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) strongly supports the efforts of local and state leaders to BUILD funding for the transformation of key corridors as part of the Youngstown SMART² Network. Spearheaded regionally, this project represents a multi-party collaboration to improve the mobility of people of the Mahoning Valley. For its part, WRTA pledges $600,000 in matching funds. The source of these funds is WRTA’s dedicated 1/4% sales tax, as authorized by the Ohio Revised Code. These funds do not originate from any federal source.

The project significantly benefits the Mahoning Valley and the broader economic region that it supports through enhancing mobility, improving safety, and integrating technology. Further, the project supports WRTA’s commitment to strengthening the public transportation network supporting mobility within the downtown core. WRTA is committed to moving forward with the introduction of emerging and advanced technology such as autonomous vehicles.

The transportation investment project described in the BUILD application builds on over a decade of planning and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, regional, state, and federal investment in the last ten years within a quarter mile of the Network. We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project in our community.

Sincerely,

Marianne Vaughn
Acting Executive Director
Resolution 2018-15

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO COMMIT LOCAL SHARE
FUNDING OF TRANSIT SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED IN A FEDERAL BUILD
GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE YOUNGSTOWN SMART² NETWORK

WHEREAS, the City of Youngstown, Youngstown State University, Mercy
Health, Eastern Gateway Community College, WRTA and others are partnering to
prepare and submit a BUILD grant application to the US Department of
Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the project, entitled Youngstown SMART² Network, will focus on
defining Fifth Avenue and related streets in downtown Youngstown as the
SMART² Network connecting the strategic medical, academic, recreational,
residential and technology centers in the Youngstown CBD; and

WHEREAS, Fifth Avenue will be redesigned as a multi-modal travel
corridor accommodating vehicular, WRTA bus routes, a new transit loop and
bicycle and pedestrian travel; and

WHEREAS, the transit loop will be designed to connect the activity
centers in the SMART² Network; and

WHEREAS, the transit specific improvements of the funding request,
which includes the purchase of two (2) autonomous vehicles, is expected to be
about $2.2 million requiring a local share not to exceed $600,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees feel that WRTA’s participation in this
partnership and proposed project is beneficial to the Youngstown community
and to the Western Reserve Transit Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WESTERN
RESERVE TRANSIT AUTHORITY that:

Section 1. The Executive Director is hereby authorized provide a
letter of commitment for an amount not to exceed $600,000 for the local share
of transit specific improvements included in the BUILD grant application
being submitted to the US Department of Transportation.

Section 2. This resolution is effective upon passage.

SIGNED: [Signature]
President

ADOPTED: [Date]

ATTEST:
June 21, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Youngstown State University strongly supports the efforts of local and state leaders to secure BUILD funding for the transformation of key corridors as part of the Youngstown SMART\textsuperscript{2} Network. Located in the heart of region and project area, Youngstown State University contributes nearly $1 billion annually into the regional economy and supports over 15,688 regional jobs, either directly or indirectly.

Spearheaded regionally, this project represents a strong multi-party collaboration to improve the mobility of people throughout the Mahoning Valley, including to our campus, to our key employers, and to our world renowned technology and innovation district.

The project benefits the Mahoning Valley and the broader economic region that it supports through:

- Redefinition and invigoration of the downtown core economy
- Strategic and enhanced connectivity amongst the community’s medical, academic, research, and technology partners and major employers, and
- Implementation of innovative mobility technology throughout the project area

The transportation project described in the SMART\textsuperscript{2} BUILD application results from over a decade of planning, and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, regional, state, and federal investment over the last ten years within a quarter mile of the SMART\textsuperscript{2} Network. The project is ready-to-start, and will achieve frequent completion milestones.

**Youngstown State University pledges $500,000 in cash as matching funds. The source of these funds is philanthropy and general revenue funds, none of which originates from any federal source.**

In addition, YSU offers in-kind cost share in the form of access to University right-of-way on the west side of Fifth Avenue, valued at $100,000, to support construction of an all-purpose path.

We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project in our community.

Sincerely,

James P. Tressel
President
July 8, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC  20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Mercy Health – Youngstown strongly supports the efforts of local and state leaders to BUILD funding for the transformation of key corridors as part of the Youngstown SMART² Network. Spearheaded regionally, this project represents a multi-party collaboration to improve the mobility and overall health of people in the Mahoning Valley.

Mercy Health – Youngstown pledges a total of $1,155,000 for this project in matching funds. This includes $500,000 in cash and $655,000 in-kind contributions. These improvements will:

- Increase access to vital health care services within the community,
- Increase employment of health care professionals, and
- Increase training and development opportunities for health science students.

The source of these funds is internal to Mercy Health – Youngstown. These funds do not originate from any federal source.

The BUILD project significantly benefits the Mahoning Valley and the broader economic region that it supports through:

- Redefinition and reinforcement of the downtown core economy,
- Greater connectivity to health, educational, recreational, and work places,
- Filling gaps in the network of complete streets, bike and pedestrian trails, and transit services, and
- Expanded range of multimodal travel options connecting people and jobs.

The transportation investment project described in the BUILD application builds on over a decade of planning and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, regional, state, and federal investment in the last ten years within a quarter mile of the Network. Federal investment in SMART² will allow Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley region to reverse decades of outward migration and disinvestment by continuing to build off recent and ongoing public and private partner investments in the project area. We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project in our community.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Kline  
President and CEO  
Mercy Health – Youngstown
June 29, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Eastern Gateway Community College is committed to securing BUILD funding for the Strategic-Sustainable – Manufacturing – Medical-Academic – Arts – Residential - Recreational – Technology - Training (SMART³) Network that is located in the heart of our metropolitan area, Youngstown, Ohio. Spearheaded regionally, this project is a collaboration of anchor partners of the Mahoning Valley: Youngstown State University, Eastern Gateway Community College, City of Youngstown, Mercy Health Partners, Western Reserve Transit Authority, and numerous others. Eastern Gateway Community College pledges $10,000 in cash. These funds do not originate from any federal source.

The project significantly benefits the Mahoning Valley and the broader economic region that it supports through:

- Reconstruction of roadways into safe and multimodal streets
- Introduction of an autonomous transit circulator
- Reclamation of the public realm

The transportation investment project described in the BUILD application builds on over a decade of planning and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, regional, state, and federal investment in the last ten years within a quarter mile of the Network. We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project in our community.

Sincerely,

Jimmie D. Bruce, Ed. D.
President
July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley is an advocate for strategic philanthropy, partnering with donors to anchor a permanent and growing endowment that improves the quality of life for all residents in the Mahoning Valley. We are pleased to establish a bike share program should Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ proposal for the SMART2 Network be accepted and funded. As part of the region’s transformation as exhibited by development in Downtown Youngstown, the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project will provide our citizens with access to a healthy alternative form of transportation directly linking critical assets including Youngstown State University, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Mercy Health, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Mill Creek Park, as well as numerous businesses and places of work.

Investing in accessibility for our residents is a priority; however, our policies prohibit us from making financial pledges. We can assure that serious consideration for funding towards the project, to the amount of $50,000, will be given once the project completes our required funding guidelines. We understand that the total cost of the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project is $300,000.

We are proud to be a part of this important and transformative project for the City of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The new transportation infrastructure proposed in the SMART2 Network BUILD grant application will position the City of Youngstown and our region for sustained economic growth in the future and this project, as part of that plan, will have significant positive health impacts on the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

Shari Harrell  
President  
Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley
July 8th, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Mercy Health Foundation - Mahoning Valley continues the mission of the Sisters of Humility of Mary by improving access to care, advancing care, and building healthier communities. We are pleased to establish a bike share program should Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ proposal for the SMART² Network be accepted and funded. As part of the region’s transformation as exhibited by development in Downtown Youngstown, the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project will provide our citizens with access to a healthy alternative form of transportation directly linking critical assets including Youngstown State University, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Mercy Health, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Mill Creek Park, as well as numerous businesses and places of work.

Investing in accessibility for our residents is a priority; however, our policies prohibit us from making financial pledges. We can assure that serious consideration for funding towards the project, to the amount of $50,000, will be given once the project completes our required funding guidelines. We understand that the total cost of the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project is $300,000.

We are proud to be a part of this important and transformative project for the City of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The new transportation infrastructure proposed in the Youngstown SMART² Network BUILD grant application will position the City of Youngstown and our region for sustained economic growth in the future and this project, as part of that plan, will have significant positive health impacts on the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Homick, Jr.  
President, Mercy Health Foundation – Mahoning Valley  
Interim Vice President, Mission and Values Integration, Mercy Health Youngstown
July 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

With a vision of empowered residents creating a healthy, vibrant, equitable and economically stable Mahoning Valley, The Raymond John Wean Foundation is pleased to be a part of collaborative efforts in support of the proposed Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ SMART² Network Bike Share Project. As part of the region’s transformation as exhibited by development in Downtown Youngstown, the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project will provide our citizens with access to a healthy alternative form of transportation directly linking critical assets including Youngstown State University, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Mercy Health, Eastern Gateway Community College and Mill Creek Park, as well as numerous businesses and places of work.

On behalf of The Raymond John Wean Foundation, I express support for the project and am committed to making a recommendation for funding, contingent upon Foundation Board approval to secure $200,000, in collaboration with other funders, towards the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project should the Youngstown SMART² Network proposal be funded.

We are encouraged by the dedication and commitment to this important and transformative project for the City of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The new transportation infrastructure proposed in the SMART² Network BUILD grant application will position the City of Youngstown and our region for sustained economic growth in the future and this project, as part of that plan, will have significant positive health impacts on the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Roller
President
July 6th, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Youngstown Foundation is the largest and oldest community foundation in the Mahoning Valley. We are pleased to establish a bike share program should Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ proposal for the SMART² Network be accepted and funded. As part of the region’s transformation as exhibited by development in Downtown Youngstown, the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project will provide our citizens with access to a healthy alternative form of transportation directly linking critical assets including Youngstown State University, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Mercy Health, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Mill Creek Park, as well as numerous businesses and places of work.

Investing in accessibility for our residents is a priority; however, our policies prohibit us from making financial pledges. We can assure that serious consideration for funding towards the project, up to the amount of $50,000, will be given once the project completes our required funding guidelines. We understand that the total cost of the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project is $300,000.

We are proud to be a part of this important and transformative project for the City of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The new transportation infrastructure proposed in the SMART² Network grant application will position the City of Youngstown and our region for sustained economic growth in the future and this project, as part of that plan, will have significant positive health impacts on the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jan Strasfeld  
Executive Director  
The Youngstown Foundation

JES:bte