October 6th, 2017

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 TIGER funding for the Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMART) Network that is 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
- Greater connectivity of health, educational, recreational, residential, and work locations,
- Filling gaps in the network of complete streets, bike and pedestrian trails, and transit service, and
- Provision of an expanded range of multimodal travel options to connect people to jobs

The transportation investment project described in the TIGER 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
October 13, 2017

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 TIGER funding for the SMAR$ T Network. This project significantly benefits the community of Youngstown and the broader economic region by reconstructing roadways into safe and complete streets, introducing a transit circulator and mini-hubs, and reclaiming public space with pedestrian facilities and Bike Share.

The City of Youngstown pledges $6,296,826 as in-kind cost share and $500,000 cash. The source of these funds is local funding, general funds, utility enterprise funds, and state funds; they do not originate from any federal source.

The transportation investment project described in this proposal builds on over a decade of planning and will leverage more than $600 million of private, local, state, and federal investment that has taken place over the last ten years within a quarter mile of the SMAR$ T Network. Collectively, the investments outlined in this application deliver a unique combination of safety improvements. We appreciate your thorough consideration of this important and transformative project for our community.

Sincerely,

John A. McNally  
Mayor
October 13, 2017

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 support the establishment of a bike share program and Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ proposal for the SMAR2T Network funding. 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 SMAR2T Network TIGER 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
October 9, 2017

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 TIGER funding for the Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (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, 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 complete streets: Address design deficiencies by creating complete streets that reduce conflicts and injury to drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- Introduction of a transit circulator and mini-hubs: Mobilize distressed and unemployed neighborhoods by increasing frequency and reliability of public transportation.
- Reclamation of the public realm: Improve pedestrian facilities and urban vibrancy by re-establishing the public right-of-way and introducing Bike Share.

The transportation investment project described in the TIGER 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
October 11, 2017

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 TIGER funding for the transformation of key corridors as part of the Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMART) 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 $1,605,000 for this project.** This includes: $500,000 in cash; $1,105,000 in-kind contributions to acquire and demolish an existing property, and to contribute toward the construction of a new transit hub at our St. Elizabeth Youngstown campus. 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 project significantly benefits the Mahoning Valley and the broader economic region that it supports through:

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

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Donald E. Koenig
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Mercy Health -Youngstown
October 13, 2017

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 SMAR2T 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 SMAR2T Network TIGER 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 Senior Vice President, Mission & Values, Mercy Health Youngstown
October 13, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

Mill Creek MetroParks strongly supports the efforts of local and state leaders to TIGER funding for the transformation of key corridors as part of the Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR²T) Network. Spearheaded regionally, this project represents a multi-party collaboration to improve the mobility of people of the Mahoning Valley. For its part, Mill Creek MetroParks pledges $500,000 in matching funds in the form of its own capital improvement projects scheduled to be completed within the MetroParks during the next five years. These matching funds do not originate from any federal source.

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

- Redefinition and reinforcement for the downtown core economy
- Greater connectivity of health, educational, recreational, residential, and work locations,
- Filling gaps in the network of complete streets, bike and pedestrian trails, and transit service, and
- Provision of an expanded range of multimodal travel options to connect people to jobs

The transportation investment project described in the TIGER 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,

[Signature]

Aaron C. Young, PLA, ASLA
Executive Director
October 13, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Raymond John Wean Foundation is pleased to be a part of a collaborative of foundation leaders in support of the proposed Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ SMAR2T Network Bike Share Project. As part of the region’s transformation as demonstrated by Downtown Youngstown development, 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 places of business and work.

On behalf of The Raymond John Wean Foundation, I express support of the project and am committed to making a recommendation for funding, contingent upon Board approval in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Mahoning Valley, Mercy Health Youngstown and The Youngstown Foundation to collaboratively secure $200,000 funding for the City of Youngstown Bike Share Project should the TIGER grant be awarded.

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 SMAR2T Network TIGER 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.

The Foundation is pleased to provide additional information, as necessary. Please phone 330.394.5600 or email  jroller@rjweanfdn.org. The Foundation is encouraged by the collaboration involved and the impact of the implementation of this project and urge strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer E. Roller
President
October 6, 2017

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 TIGER funding for the transformation of key corridors as part of the Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR²T) 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:

- Redefinition and reinforcement for the downtown core economy
- Greater connectivity of health, educational, recreational, residential, and work locations,
- Filling gaps in the network of complete streets, bike and pedestrian trails, and transit service, and
- Provision of an expanded range of multimodal travel options to connect people to jobs

The transportation investment project described in the TIGER 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 J. Ferraro
Executive Director
October 13, 2017
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 SMAR²T 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 for The Youngstown Foundation; however, our policies prohibit us from making financial pledges. We can assure that serious consideration for funding towards the project, to secure the needed $200,000.00, 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 SMAR²T Network TIGER 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.

Most sincerely,

Janice E. Strasfeld
Executive Director

JES:bte
September 26, 2017

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 Eastgate Regional Council of Governments proposal to secure TIGER funding, transforming Youngstown’s Center City transportation network into a Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technological (SMAR2T) Corridor, a collaboration amongst the City of Youngstown, Youngstown State University, Mercy Health, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Youngstown Business Incubator, Mill Creek Metro Parks, the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, and Eastern Gateway Community College.

In support of this project, Youngstown State University pledges $500,000 in cash and $27,000 as in-kind cost share, in the form of right-of-way for a multipurpose path on our campus. The source of these funds is private philanthropy; they do not originate from any federal source.

The project significantly benefits Youngstown and the broader economic region through:

- Redefinition and reinforcement of Center City Youngstown as the economic core of the region, serving both rural and urban communities.
- Greater connectivity between health, educational, recreational, residential, and employment centers for all users.
- Safer pedestrian connections throughout the SMAR2T corridor, especially for students traveling to internships and research destinations within the city.
- Increased public-private partnerships.
- Improve work opportunities and quality of life for Center City residents, including those economically disadvantaged residents, young professionals, and students, by expanding multi-modal access to employment and social services.
- Transforming overbuilt road networks to complete and green streets, (bike and pedestrian trails, share-use paths, and dedicated transit services) conducive for safe and active multi-modal transportation options.
- Green infrastructure and environmental stewardship.

This TIGER application builds on more than a decade of planning and coalition building to transition Youngstown’s economy to one reliant on high value-added services and advanced manufacturing. This TIGER investment will leverage $365 million of public and private investment in Youngstown’s Center City since 2005. This proposal will enhance quality of life for disadvantaged residents through enhanced connections between the City’s health, education, and employment opportunities, resulting in transportation benefits throughout the community.

Sincerely,

James P. Tressel  
President