October 11, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for funding in the FY17 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. Funding will be used to make improvements to the Central Business District in Youngstown, Ohio that includes Fifth Avenue, Park Avenue, Rayen Avenue, Commerce Street, Federal Street, Phelps Street, and Front Street.

The enhancements of the Central Business District and nearby manufacturing plants will provide greater multimodal access between key employers in the Mahoning Valley. I understand that this enhancement will increase safety and improve pedestrian movement between educational institutions and jobs. As the Mahoning Valley continues to face high unemployment, investing in job creation through transportation improvements is vital to driving economic activity in Northeast Ohio.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grants coordinator, Linda Greenwood, at 419-259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman  
United States Senator
October 6, 2017

Secretary Elaine Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation ("Department") evaluates applications for TIGER grants, I would like to bring your attention to the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' application for Youngstown’s SMAR2T Corridor project. This project would help redevelop downtown Youngstown, Ohio by financing construction that would enhance rights-of-way and more diverse and safe flow of traffic.

The growth and success of downtown Youngstown is essential part of efforts to create jobs and bolster the economy of Northeast and Appalachian Ohio. This project would help Youngstown’s Central Business District further develop its status as a regional hub for health, higher education, and advanced manufacturing. This project would allow for work to implement “complete street” elements on key arteries in Downtown Youngstown. It would also connect existing and committed transportation infrastructure investments allowing for the completion of a citywide circuit. Helping reintroduce a bus circulator would connect Youngstown State University to a new transit hub at Mercy Health, to Youngstown Business Incubator, and other businesses, entertainment, and dining in the area. Further, it would allow for additional pedestrian improvements along the corridor and create separated bike lanes. Through these improvements, this project would address Department criteria of Safety, State of Good Repair, Economic Competitiveness, Environmental Sustainability, and Innovation and Partnership.

The SMAR2T Corridor project would stimulate economic recovery and job creation in Northeast Ohio. This proposal deserves full and fair consideration. For additional information, please contact Leah_Hill@brown.senate.gov in my office.

Sincerely,

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Rectory grants, signed under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, provide vital funding to critical infrastructure projects in the United States. Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is seeking to obtain funding from this program to finance construction and redevelopment on various critical roadways in the downtown area of the City of Youngstown.

The TIGER request will provide the critical transportation improvements necessary to bolster private investment in Youngstown’s downtown as a vibrant and innovative hub for higher education, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing that serves the greater Appalachian-Ohio region.

Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley have been significantly impacted by downturns in the economy including the Great Recession and most recently falling energy prices. According to the United States Department of Labor, the Youngstown-Warren Metropolitan Area was reported to have an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent in August of 2017, compared to 4.4 percent nationally. Given that the primary purpose of the TIGER program is to stimulate economic recovery, investing in an employment hub adjacent to rural counties is an ideal choice.

I support Eastgate Regional Council of Government’s efforts in obtaining this grant. I strongly encourage the Department of Transportation to invest in Youngstown, the Mahoning Valley, and Ohio.

Sincerely,

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress
October 5, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express my strong support for Eastgate Regional Council of Government’s application to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program for integrating investment in roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. This project will result in significant job creation in the Mahoning Valley while connecting educational, medical, and recreational facilities while catalyzing opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic development through multimodal transportation enhancements.

This application has broad backing from public and private sector stakeholders and further supports national objectives by increasing access to education, jobs, and opportunities for entrepreneurship and job creation by connecting facilities such as Youngstown State University, Eastern Gateway Community College, Youngstown Business Incubator, Mercy Health, and America Makes. SMAR2T is the type of public-private partnership worthy of federal investment that may be made through TIGER.

As a Member of Congress, I have devoted a great deal of time promoting public-private partnerships, encouraging synchronized urban planning between agencies and private developers, and the need for downtown revitalization projects, which I believe can be the economic engines for thriving growth and quality of life. I am very enthusiastic to support Eastgate Regional Council of Government’s application. This proposal will result in significant job creation and further investment in the Mahoning Valley.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

TR:pw
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:

As Representatives of the Ohio House of Representatives, we support Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds through the United States Department of Transportation. A high quality transportation system is important to our constituents, as limited access and antiquated infrastructure quite literally and figuratively is a barrier to economic development and job growth.

Despite drops in unemployment rates across the State of Ohio, the Youngstown-Warren metropolitan area continues to see higher rates of unemployment and lower wages than the rest of the state. Youngstown was recently named the most distressed small, mid-sized city in the United States. Enhancements to Fifth Avenue, Park Avenue, Rayen Avenue, Commerce Street, Federal Street, Phelps Street, Front Street, and multimodal improvements are critical for job growth in well-paying industries and research development at Youngstown State University.

Please accept this letter of strong support for SMAR2T.

Sincerely,

Michele Lepore-Hagan
State Representative
58th Ohio House District

John Boccieri
State Representative
59th Ohio House District
October 10th, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I ask that you favorably consider the competitive grant application submitted by the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for funding in the FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program.

As State Senator for the 32nd District in Ohio’s 132nd General Assembly, I understand how critical federal investment combined with private investment is for the rebuilding of Midwestern communities like Youngstown, which was recently named the most distressed small to medium-sized city in the United States. This TIGER proposal will greatly speed up reinvestment in and around downtown Youngstown, which is the employment center for multiple counties in northeastern Ohio. Because of this, I strongly encourage your support for this project.

If you have any questions about this letter of support or would like to discuss it further, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (614) 466-7182, or by email at O’Brien@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,

Sean J. O’Brien
State Senator
32nd Ohio Senate District
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:

Please accept this letter of strong support of Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ commitment to redeveloping and transforming Fifth Avenue and other corridors into Youngstown’s Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR2T) Corridor. This project will enable long-aspired connectivity between the medical, educational, technological and recreational assets of Center City Youngstown.

As Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education, my priorities are to make postsecondary education affordable and accessible to all students. Eastgate’s proposal fulfills these priorities by providing connectivity between Eastern Gateway Community College and Youngstown State University with other services important to students, including on-the-job training. Safer streets with reliable transit will allow students to access programming and support critical to their success.

I strongly encourage your support for this project.

Sincerely,

John Carey  
Chancellor  
Ohio Department of Higher Education
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:

I am writing to support Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ 2017 TIGER Grant Application for the Strategic Medical, Academic, Recreation, Residential and Technology (SMAR²T) Network project. In partnership with Eastgate, the City of Youngstown, The Ohio Department of Transportation, Youngstown State University, Western Reserve Transit Authority, Mill Creek Metroparks, Mercy Health System, and the philanthropic community are seeking 2017 TIGER Discretionary Grant funds. The proposed project will create a dynamic multimodal corridor that transforms the current transportation infrastructure and connects recent investments. The project will improve linkages between medical, academic, technological, and manufacturing jobs to residential areas, the campus, and the downtown.

Over the past ten years, the community has leveraged close to a billion dollars in local, state, federal and private investment to support new jobs and facilities in the medical, academic, technological, and manufacturing sectors, to provide new low income housing for the growing downtown residential facilities. Complete street makeovers are currently in place, in design and/or under construction and completion for Hazel Street, Wick Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, all of which will connect to the SMAR²T network. The project will also construct critical bikeway connections to the south and west that will promote wellness, support alternative transportation, and create critical connections to the city’s most valued greenspace network. This important transportation improvement will “connect the dots” providing a multi-modal access to much needed jobs in a severely distressed area.

We appreciate your consideration of this opportunity and your continued partnership as we implement a new economic paradigm for re-envisioning our nation’s former rust belt.

Respectfully,

Jerry Wray  
Director, Ohio Department of Transportation
October 9, 2017

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

Subject: Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
        TIGER FY17 Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

We wish to offer our support to Eastgate Regional Council of Governments in their application to TIGER FY17. This request will deliver on the key goals of the program including safety, system preservation, state of good repair, and economic competitiveness by reconstructing key corridors in Youngstown’s Central Business District.

Team NEO is an economic development organization focused on creating jobs for Northeast Ohio’s residents. In collaboration with our partners, we lead the region’s business attraction efforts, support business retention and expansion work as Northeast Ohio’s JobsOhio affiliate, and align strategies and resources within the economic development network to maximize its impact.

The request builds on over a decade of planning and coalition-building to transition the Mahoning Valley’s economy into one that is resilient, and better aligned with an increasingly competitive global economy. The request will not only create jobs during construction; it will provide direct access to development and stimulate growth downtown, on Youngstown State University’s campus, at Mercy Health’s St. Elizabeth campus, and other private entities.

We ask you to join us in supporting SMAR2T in the Mahoning Valley. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Koehler
Chief Executive Officer
Team NEO
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:

The Fund for Our Economic Future is an alliance of funders, including foundations, corporations, universities, health care systems, business and civic associations, government entities and individuals. We pool our resources and collective know-how to advance economic growth and increase access to opportunity for all people of Northeast Ohio through improved job creation, job preparation and job access.

The Fund for Our Economic Future supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for SMAR2T under the TIGER grant program. This proposal aligns with our goals of connecting key economic development resources including employers and educational institutions, and providing increased mobility for workers in the manufacturing and healthcare industries.

Ultimately, we believe Eastgate’s TIGER application supports the advancement of the Mahoning Valley economy and the broader Northeast Ohio economy.

Sincerely,

Brad Whitehead  
President  
Fund for Our Economic Future
October 6th, 2017

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

RE: SMAR2T TIGER Grant Application, City of Youngstown, Mahoning County

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Mahoning County Commissioners seek support for enhancements included in our SMAR2T TIGER application, prepared by The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. As the seat of Mahoning County, Youngstown is the heart of educational, social, cultural, and economic activity in the county. Youngstown is poised for economic development spurred by reinvestment in the City’s core.

Youngstown’s strategic location lends itself to the importance of this project for updating the streetscape and connectivity among locations. The SMAR2T, TIGER grant will provide critical supports for a safe and multi-modal downtown.

We now ask that you assist Mahoning County and the City of Youngstown by funding the SMAR2T application through the TIGER grant program. The application proposed will facilitate modernization of the downtown that will further private investment and strengthen the economic advantages and competitiveness within the region.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF MAHONING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signatures]

David C. Ditzler
President

Anthony T. Traficanti
Vice-President

Carol Rimedio-Righetti
Commissioner

c: Jim Kinnick, P.E. Eastgate, Executive Director
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:

I write you to express my strong support for Eastgate Regional Council of Government’s application to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program for integrating investment in roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. This project will result in significant job creation in the Mahoning Valley while connecting educational, medical, and recreational facilities while catalyzing opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic development through multimodal transportation enhancements.

The Mercer County Regional Planning Commission runs the Shenango Valley Area Transportation Study (SVATS), the Metropolitan Transportation Organization (MPO) for Mercer County. SVATS shares an Urbanized Area with Eastgate, thus coordinating on planning and programming of all transportation projects that receive federal funding. Eastgate and MCRPC also share a workforce that depends on an efficient and robust infrastructure network.

We ask you to join us in supporting SMAR2T in the Mahoning Valley. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gracenin
Executive Director
Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
October 12th, 2017
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As Chairman and CEO of Joseph Company International and West Coast Chill, I strongly support Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the United States Department of Transportation for TIGER FY17.

Joseph Company International is the global leader in self-containing cooling, having developed and perfected Chill-Can® technology. Joseph Company International is currently investing over $20 million into a manufacturing and research campus located adjacent to East Rayen Avenue on the East Side of Youngstown. This campus will include buildings devoted to administration, plastics-injection molding, distribution and research and development. This campus is projected to manufacture one-billion self-chilling cans annually and may expand in size and employment beyond our twenty-one acre site. We expect to create more than 250 jobs in our first three years.

The SMAR³T Network is critical to our success for multiple reasons, including that the improvements will complement our growth. We’re dedicated to hiring residents of Youngstown that may live in distressed neighborhoods, providing them the opportunity to take part in manufacturing pathways in machining. Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College provide research and development opportunities through mechanical and electrical engineering internships, business development internships, and research at the newly constructed innovation center that will be located on Commerce Street.

Safe, convenient, and reliable transportation options are necessary for this exciting new area of advanced manufacturing in Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. I ask you to join us in supporting the SMAR³T Network. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Joseph
Chairman and CEO
mjoseph@chillcan.com
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:

Grow Mahoning Valley fully supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the United States Department of Transportation through the TIGER discretionary grant program.

Grow Mahoning Valley has helped secure federal and state funding for critical development-related infrastructure projects for nearly twenty-years and is represented by public infrastructure officials, business leaders and labor representatives from Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

Grow Mahoning Valley has identified the SMAR2T Network as the number one infrastructure investment priority for the region because of the further growth in the region it provides by linking Mercy Health, one of the largest employers in the region, to Youngstown State University and other employers. This construction is key to our regional competitiveness and ability to retain, grow and attract industries key to the Mahoning Valley including advanced manufacturing and health services.

The TIGER discretionary grant request will provide the critical transportation assets necessary to bolster the Mahoning Valley. Your support and consideration is vital to the people of this region.

Sincerely,

Phil Dennison, Chairman
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:

Eastern Gateway Community College strongly supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to secure funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation’s TIGER program. This application is critical for the redefinition of Youngstown and improved safety and economic competitiveness for downtown visitors, residents, professionals, and students.

Eastern Gateway Community College has operated in the Valley Center in Youngstown since 2009 and has experienced rapid growth by preparing students for in-demand careers in over sixty programs and further education at Youngstown State University.

As an anchor of the Downtown, we ask that you highly consider facilitation the modernization of the roadways included in the SMAR2T proposal. It is critical for our students to have reliable and safe transportation access to on-the-job training and education that is in and near Downtown. This proposal builds on over a decade of planning and coalition-building to transition Youngstown and the region’s economy through strategic, catalytic investment.

Please consider this letter of support for this critical investment that will create employment in the Mahoning Valley.

Sincerely,

Jimmie D. Bruce, Ed. D.
President
October 5, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber’s support of Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the United States Department of Transportation through the TIGER discretionary grant program.

The Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber provides a broad range of economic development services to prospective and existing area firms. By furnishing assistance tailored to fit individual business needs, the Regional Chamber’s Economic Development Division has helped more than 500 firms—from small companies to multi-national corporations—invest more than $5.6 billion and create 23,500 new jobs.

The Regional Chamber is invested in our regional priorities, one of which is to transform Fifth Avenue into a Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR²T) Corridor and improve other key roadways throughout the Central Business District.

The TIGER discretionary grant request will provide the critical transportation assets necessary to bolster the City of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. Your support and consideration is vital to the long-term viability of our community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
October 2, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Western Reserve Port Authority (WRPA) fully supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the United States Department of Transportation through the TIGER discretionary grant program.

The WRPA has facilitated significant reinvestment for the Mahoning Valley, particularly in the urban core of the City of Youngstown and Youngstown State University, related to transportation and infrastructure, brownfield redevelopment, and innovative financing options to help attract and retain jobs.

The WRPA is invested in Eastgate’s regional priorities, top of which is to transform Fifth Avenue into a Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR²T) Corridor and improving other key roadways throughout the Central Business District.

The TIGER discretionary grant request will provide the critical transportation assets necessary to bolster the City of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. Your support and consideration is vital to our people.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Moliterno  
Executive Director  
Western Reserve Port Authority

Advance Aviation and Foster Community & Economic Development
The following action was taken by the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners on October 4, 2017, and duly recorded in the Journal Volume 147, Page(s) 21130:

************************************************************************
RE: APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS APPLICATION FOR THE TIGER FY17 GRANT FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION OF FIFTH AVENUE IN THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

MOTION: Made by Mr. Polivka, seconded by Mr. Cantalamessa, to approve a Letter of Support on behalf of the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' request to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation, for the TIGER FY17 Grant for the redevelopment and transformation of Fifth Avenue into the City of Youngstown's Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR3T) Corridor. The Youngstown (SMAR3T) Corridor will better connect the medical, educational, technological and recreational assets of Center City Youngstown for the Mahoning Valley. Although Youngstown is not located within Trumbull County, the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners recognizes the importance of supporting our neighbors for key regional economic development through collaboration.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners is hopeful and optimistic that this important project can be extended into Trumbull County in the near future with an additional TIGER Grant approval. The Commissioners believe that transportation and economic development should be considered as a regional endeavor that will benefit the entire metropolitan area of the Mahoning Valley.

Yeas: Polivka, Cantalamessa, Fuda
Nays: None

CERTIFICATION

I, Paulette A. Godfrey, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Trumbull County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners on October 4, 2017, and is duly recorded in their Journal Volume 147, Page(s) 21130.

Paulette A. Godfrey, Clerk/Interim Administrator
Board of County Commissioners

/pjvk

cc: Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners adopted a Resolution on October 4, 2017 endorsing this letter of support regarding the City of Youngstown’s application to TIGER FY17. Although Youngstown is not located within Trumbull County, we recognize the importance of supporting our neighbors for key regional economic development through collaboration.

The TIGER Grant request will stimulate growth to the Mahoning Valley’s economy for the City of Youngstown’s Downtown area, Youngstown State University’s Campus, and Mercy Health Partner’s St. Elizabeth Campus.

The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners requests your support of a TIGER discretionary grant to the City of Youngstown for the redevelopment and transformation of Fifth Avenue into Youngstown’s Strategic-Medical-Academic-Recreational-Residential-Technology (SMAR$T) Corridor. The Youngstown SMAR$T Corridor will better connect the medical, educational, technological and recreational assets of Center City Youngstown for the Mahoning Valley.

The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners is hopeful and optimistic that this important project can be extended into Trumbull County in the near future with an additional TIGER Grant approval. The Commissioners believe that transportation and economic development should be considered as a regional endeavor that will benefit the entire metropolitan area of the Mahoning Valley.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO

[Signatures]

Frank S. Fuda, President
Mauro Cantalamessa, Commissioner
Daniel E. Polivka, Commissioner
September 29, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:  

Please accept this letter of strong support from America Makes for the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ proposal to secure TIGER funding for the SMAR2T Corridor. America Makes is the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute, a public-private partnership created to increase our nation’s global manufacturing competitiveness. We are the nation’s leading and collaborative partner in additive manufacturing technology and workforce development.

The proposal’s scope, including improvements to Federal, Phelps, and Front streets will greatly enhance our Youngstown campus’s visibility. The proposal also makes our location more accessible through mass transit and higher education connectivity. America Makes is proud to be part of the Center City and its transformation towards a more competitive, twenty-first century economy.

I strongly urge support for this vital transportation project for the Mahoning Valley and Northeast Ohio.

Sincerest regards,

Rob Gorham

Executive Director, America Makes  
America Makes – National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute  
National Center for Defense Manufacturing & Machining (NCDMM)  
(330) 599-6474  
rob.gorham@ncdmm.org
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:

Youngstown CityScape is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community development organization dedicated to the improvement of the greater downtown Youngstown area. Our mission is to strengthen Youngstown’s revitalized urban core connecting downtown, the Youngstown State University campus and adjacent neighborhoods and gateways. This is accomplished through strategic partnerships in an effort to provide an attractive working and living environment.

Youngstown CityScape supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ grant application for funds from the TIGER program. Enhancements to key transportation corridors into our downtown are critical to the development of the region.

Youngstown CityScape has been a key advocate for the core of Youngstown, supporting street-scape improvements, including annual plantings, since 1998. We’ve provided leadership to leverage federal, state, and local investment used to preserve and redevelop the City’s downtown and gateways.

Fifth Avenue and other roadways in the current project scope lack the necessary infrastructure improvements to utilize pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit networks that connect key assets of the City to the larger Mahoning Valley region. SMAR2T will better connect our medical, educational, technological, and recreational resources and spur further mixed-use and high-density development that the City is poised to make.

The project significantly benefits the community of Youngstown, and the broader economic region that it supports, by proposing a unified transportation plan that incorporates future-looking aspects.

CityScape wholeheartedly supports Eastgate’s TIGER application that will enhance aesthetics and provide safe connections between key regional economic assets.

Sincerely,

Sharon Letson  
Executive Director  
Youngstown CityScape

Board Members

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Pete Asimakopoulos

Immediate Past President  
Reverend Richard Murphy

Vice President  
Scott Schulick

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David Stilwagen  
Shannon Trone  
Laura Tubo  
Aaron Young

Honorary Life Member  
Claire Maluso

PEOPLE + VISION + ACTION  
www.youngstowncitscape.com
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:

The Diocese of Youngstown was established in 1943 to serve six counties in Northeast Ohio and includes eighty-seven parishes, six high schools, and twenty-two elementary schools. Our Youngstown office includes Catholic Charities Corporation to meet the needs of those less fortunate through social service agencies, housing assistance, prison ministry, care for the aged, and more.

We support Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the TIGER program for the SMAR2T corridor. Redevelopment of Fifth Avenue and other streets include Commerce and Front will not only provide safety improvements and access but is critical to the revitalization and rebranding of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

The Diocese of Youngstown supports this application as it will improve the quality of life of downtown and neighborhood residents, including economically-disadvantaged residents, by connecting them to resources and opportunity.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Kelly, CPA
Chief Financial Officer
Diocese of Youngstown

144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503 • Phone 330-744-8451 • Fax 330-742-6448
October 2nd, 2017
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the United States Department of Transportation for funding under FY2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. The SMAR²T Network will enhance our service area by connecting critical resources and employment through safety and mobility improvements.

The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County connects people and communities to reliable resources that inspire learning and foster enrichment. At our Main Library that is located within the project area, we recently launched the Career & Job Center (CJC) to work with organizations in areas of jobs, career development, and business growth. We’re dedicated to serving the diverse needs of our clients and recognize that transportation is a major barrier for service delivery.

We encourage your support in obtaining this opportunity to improve transportation efficiency in Youngstown and the Mahoning Library.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Susan Merriman
Interim Director
October 5, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

LRC Realty supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' grant application for funds from the TIGER program. Enhancements to key transportation corridors throughout Downtown Youngstown are critical for the redevelopment of the region. Currently, we're in the process of investing $16 million into new student housing in the target area of this application.

Rayen Avenue and other roadways in the scope lack the necessary infrastructure improvements to utilize pedestrian, bicycling, and public transit networks that connect key assets of both the City and Mahoning Valley. SMAR²T will better connect medical, educational, technological, and recreational resources and spur further mixed-use and high-density development that the City is poised to make.

We wholeheartedly support Eastgate's TIGER application that will enhance aesthetics and provide safe connections between key regional economic assets.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Fallon
Senior Vice President - Development
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:

The Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority (YMHA) strongly supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application for SMAR²T to the United States Department of Transportation through the TIGER discretionary grant program.

YMHA has a staff of 65 professionals dedicated to administering 2,269 Housing Choice Vouchers, managing a portfolio of 1,260 Public Housing units, and operating with a budget of $20 million. The agency’s housing portfolio is throughout Mahoning County with a concentration in the City of Youngstown.

YMHA residents also benefit from an extensive set of support services that include self-sufficiency programs, housing counseling, youth programs, and Neighborhood Networks computer centers. The agency is also in the process of concluding a very aggressive, comprehensive modernization of its entire portfolio of housing units.

YMHA is in complete support of the City of Youngstown’s and Mahoning Valley’s vision to transform Fifth Avenue and other key roadways such as Commerce Street and Front Street to better connect medical, educational, technological, recreational, and employment opportunities for our residents. It is critical for our clients to have reliable and safe transportation access to on-the-job training and educated that is located within the proposal’s scope.

Please consider this letter of support for critical investment in the Mahoning Valley.

Sincerely,

Jason Whitehead  
CEO & Executive Director
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:

The Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) fully supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application for SMAR²T to the United States Department of Transportation through the TIGER discretionary grant program.

The YBI has been invested in Downtown Youngstown since 2001, and has generated over five-hundred jobs, over forty portfolio companies, and twenty-two million dollars in redevelopment of abandoned properties that has transformed the west end of downtown into what is called the Technology Block. Most recently, we launched the redevelopment of our 5th building, which will be a center for additive manufacturing job creation.

The YBI commends the partners who continue to redevelop the city core into a center of employment and innovation. SMAR²T improvements directly connect to our campus, enabling greater connectivity between the medical, educational, technological, and recreational assets of the Mahoning Valley.

The TIGER discretionary grant request will provide the critical transportation assets necessary to bolster our downtown and more importantly, region, by providing a vibrant, urban setting that is a competitive environment for job growth in well-paying technology and manufacturing industries.

Sincerely,

Barb Ewing
CEO
YBI
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:

The City of Youngstown strongly supports the efforts of regional leaders in securing funding for the SMAR2T proposal that is a collaboration between numerous entities including the City of Youngstown, Youngstown State University, the Western Reserve Transit Authority, Mercy Health, and others.

The proposal significantly benefits the community of Youngstown and the broader economic region by redefining the Downtown, providing greater connectivity and filling multimodal gaps, and improving quality of life for City residents. This proposal will further spearhead private investment into the Mahoning Valley.

The City of Youngstown supports Eastgate Regional Council of Governments’ application to the U.S. Department of Transportation that builds on over a decade of planning and coalition-building to transition Youngstown’s economy to one reliant on high value-added services and manufacturing.

Very truly yours,

John A. McNally  
Mayor