May 13th, 2020

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 you today to express the Healthy Community Partnership-Mahoning Valley (HCP-MV)'s support for the Western Reserve Port Authority's application for funding in the FY20 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program. Funding will be used for the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub, a strategic infrastructure initiative to capitalize on Lordstown's location at the intersection of multiple modes of transportation, broadband, and electrification to position the area as the premier regional warehousing and distribution hub.

Investing in this project would help invigorate Northeast Ohio, particularly the Mahoning Valley and Lordstown, areas that were sharply impacted by economic downturns. The Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub will deliver significant improvements in transportation safety, mobility, access, and reliability. Improvements will include an intermodal rail connection at Ohio Commerce Center, an autonomous truck circulator route, consolidation of the current split interchange configuration along the Ohio Turnpike at Lordstown, and a transfer yard for trailers at the Ohio Turnpike Lordstown interchange.

The HCP-MV is an initiative that is bringing together organizations and individuals from multiple sectors that share a commitment to a healthier Mahoning Valley and desire to create equitable opportunities for residents to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Members of HCP-MV seek to accomplish this by working together to address social and environmental factors that impact health. One of HCP-MV's focus areas is Active Transportation and improving accessibility to multiple modes of transportation so residents can get to work, to the grocery store, to the park, and back home safely. The team focused on improving pedestrian and traffic safety have cultivated strong relationships with Western Reserve Transit Authority and multiple local governments and share a commitment to continue collaborating to improve transportation in the region.

Further, the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub would build off the existing investment in transportation infrastructure, and the private investment by companies such as General Motors (GM) & LG Chem, Lordstown Motors Corporation, and TJX Homegoods to name a few.

I urge you to give the Western Reserve Port Authority's grant application your fullest consideration and support as this project presents a much needed opportunity to bring federal resources to the Mahoning Valley to aid in the region's ongoing economic recovery.

Respectfully,

Sarah J. Lowry
Director, Healthy Community Partnership

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