

OHIO COMMERCE CENTER

8 May 2020
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are writing to you today to express our 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.

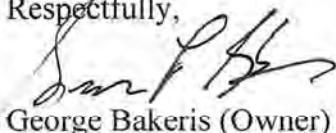
Since we purchased Ohio Commerce Center in 2010, we have invested many millions of dollars to upgrade and integrate rail to build the local industrial base. We sought and leveraged a \$3.0m Ohio Job Ready Sites grant in 2013 to improve rail access; and that investment has attracted over \$150m in other private investment creating 300+ solid jobs. This BUILD grant coupled with our future anticipated investment will help secure a stable and diversified employment base. As the largest rail yard in the region, we look forward to working with the Port Authority to improve and integrate rail efficiencies into the logistics of the region.

Ohio Commerce Center is continuously investing in the rail infrastructure from our funds and anticipates continuing to do that as part of matching funds for this BUILD grant. The land that is needed to build and operate the Intermodal facility is located in an area contiguous to the (former) Kunkel Army Reserve Station and Kunkel Dr. that is now owned by the Village of Lordstown. At this point we would consider offering that +/-16 acres as matching funds as well as the incoming rail spur, the many necessary upgrades to comply with anticipated rail standards for associated track, and installing an additional 4,000+ feet of new track to connect the intermodal area to existing rail lines in place. Many items would need vetted, not the least of which would be the Village of Lordstown contributing Kunkel Dr. and the Kunkel Reserve Station to provide legal access to our contributed property. In addition, contributing these funds, improvements, and new installations are predicated on a sound business model and the connecting class 1 rail road agreeing to supply intermodal rail service to Ohio Commerce Center.

Ohio Commerce Center's pledge of \$3,800,000 would consist of land, rail spur, and cash spent inside Ohio Commerce Center as a cost share. The source of these funds is private property and cash owned and held by Ohio Commerce Center. These funds do not originate from any local, state, or federal source.

Attached is a map generally outlining that land and proximity to the Kunkel Center. We look forward to supporting this grant and all the parties seeking to bring investment and jobs to the valley.

Respectfully,



George Bakeris (Owner)

Spiros Bakeris (Owner)



Dr. David M. Christensen
Executive Director, SELECT
david.christensen@usu.edu, 435-797-9619

May 8th, 2020
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Utah State University is committed to securing BUILD capital funding for the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub. The project significantly benefits the Village of Lordstown and surrounding rural communities across the broader Mahoning Valley region in their ongoing economic recovery efforts.

Utah State University pledges \$2,000,005.21 as in-kind cost share. The source of these funds is State of Utah research funding, including Sustainable Transportation and Energy Plan (STEP) research awards and SELECT Center state appropriation funds. These funds do not originate from any federal source.

Investing in this project will help to invigorate Northeast Ohio, particularly the Mahoning Valley and Lordstown, areas that have been 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.

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

Respectfully,

David M. Christensen
Executive Director
Utah State University SELECT Center



May 15th, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

Transportation Research Center, Inc. is committed to securing BUILD funding for the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub. The project significantly benefits the Village of Lordstown and surrounding rural communities across the broader Mahoning Valley region in their ongoing economic recovery efforts.

Transportation Research Center, Inc. pledges \$515,802.80 in facilities, test equipment and personnel as private in-kind contributions in support of the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub BUILD Grant. These in-kind contributions do not originate from any federal source.

Investing in this project will help to invigorate Northeast Ohio, particularly the Mahoning Valley and Lordstown, areas that have been sharply impacted by economic downturns in recent years. 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 turnpike's Lordstown interchange.

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

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Roubinek". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Brett Roubinek

President & CEO

Transportation Research Center, Inc.