

RESOLUTION 2025-056

A Resolution Approving the Applications through the Congressional Direct Spending Funding Appropriation Through Senator Moreno's Office

The Board of Trustee of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, met in person in a Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 2193 Frank Road, Columbus, Ohio. The trustee marked below made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

- Trustee Fleshman** **Trustee Leezer** **Trustee Blevins**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, approves and authorizes the application for grant funding from the Congressional Direct Spending Funding Appropriation for a boulevard project through the Westland Mall property from West Broad Street to Georgesville Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this application shall be submitted through Ohio Senator Bernie Mareno's office.

Section 1, That all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were passed in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 2, That this Resolution shall be declared an emergency and be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

The following trustee marked below seconded the motion: (check one)

- Trustee Fleshman** **Trustee Leezer** **Trustee Blevins**

Roll was called for the adoption of the resolution, and the vote was as follows:

Fleshman: YES/ NO **Leezer:** YES/ NO **Blevins:** YES/ NO *Excused*



John Fleshman, Trustee



James Leezer, Trustee

Mike Blevins, Trustee

Adopted on April 17, 2025



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Bernie Moreno
SR-B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Westland Mall Redevelopment

Dear Senator Moreno:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is writing to express our full support for the Franklin Township Trustees' Congressionally Directed Spending application for the Westland Mall Redevelopment project. This project would construct a new public boulevard angling across the southwest quadrant of the West Broad Street & Georgesville Road intersection.

MORPC is a regional planning organization and regional council representing 90 local governments and partner organizations across 15 Central Ohio counties. Our communities span urban, suburban, and rural areas, comprising a broad cross-section of Ohioans. In addition to serving as both a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and advocating on behalf of our members, we also provide a variety of programs and services related to data, sustainability, transportation, and economic and community development.

This investment in the Westland Mall area will be a catalyst to redevelop the former mall site. This "shot-in-the-arm" community investment is critical because no public agency (Ohio Department of Transportation, Franklin County Engineer's Office, nor Franklin Township) has revenue available to build the boulevard that would lower the costs to redevelop the mall site. However, once built, the Franklin County Engineer's Office (or appropriate local jurisdiction) will add it to their road maintenance program and keep it maintained via their regular, predictable, reliable revenue from motor vehicle registration fees and gas tax.

This new public road will provide the following benefits:

- Improve safety and reduce congestion at the nearby W Broad Street & Georgesville Road intersection

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

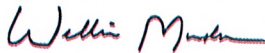
Ben Kessler
Secretary

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- Greatly complement multimodal options in the area through coordination with the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project as part of the LinkUS, and new safe pedestrian paths, bike lanes, first mile/last mile connections to additional Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) bus routes beyond the BRT corridor
 - Spur development of the old Westland Mall property adding strategic investment to the community, jobs, complete community housing, safety, security, daycare facilities, farmers' market stations, and entertainment

MORPC recognizes the importance of projects like this in pursuing the goals and objectives outlined in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Creating sustainable communities, providing a safe multimodal system, and supporting economic development are all foundations of our MTP. This project (ID 2193) was included in the 2024-2050 MTP and will also be included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Federal financial participation in this project will significantly impact the economic and personal mobility needs of Central Ohio. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,



William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

