

Shelby City Hall

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April 16, 2021

The Honorable Troy Balderson
US House of Representatives, 12th District
2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Balderson,

I am pleased to submit this letter of enthusiastic support for consideration of the City of Mansfield "Main Street Corridor Improvement" application for a member designated project for the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

Adopted in 2015 and updated in 2020 the MPO Transportation Long Range Plan "Direction looking Forward 2045" recommends strategic policies and investments to strengthen the region's economy and quality of life. In 2018, the "Mansfield Rising Plan", a citizen-driven, city endorsed, community plan for the Mansfield Central Business District, identified the Main Street Corridor as a high-priority action item for improvements. The corridor is a one-way, north south artery through downtown with aging utility infrastructure, safety concerns, and deteriorated 40-year-old streetscape that does not reflect the energy and revitalization the City is experiencing.

The City of Mansfield has made strategic investments in the past few years within the Central Business District converting streets from one-way to two-way, resulting in an increase in private-sector investment on surrounding properties. Through these and other efforts, downtown has reemerged as a public realm and a destination. The improvements and conversion of Main Street Corridor is the final catalytic project in this transformation and will leverage additional investments and growth. In addition, this project makes improvements to Central Park and its relationship to Main Street. It complements the emphasis on livable communities and builds on the vision for a downtown for the 21st Century.

The plan has widespread support, identified local public funding, and private investment. This project was adopted by Mansfield City Council in January 2021. The municipalities in our region are interdependent, and we all benefit from projects such as this. This project can play a central role in the revitalization of our community and urge your strongest support in considering this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Gies".

Joseph C. Gies
Project Coordinator, City of Shelby
President, Richland County Regional Planning Commission