August \_\_, 2023

Vincent Valdes

President, Executive Director and CEO

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

42 21st Street, Suite 101

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Mr. Valdes:

I am writing in support of the Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) application to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission’s 2023 Federal Competitive Funding Programs for the Microtransit Pilot Project. The project involves operation of microtransit using commercially available vans in two microtransit zones within Allegheny County; the first identified location is the City of McKeesport, and the second zone is not yet confirmed, but the Allegheny Valley communities of Tarentum Borough, Brackenridge Borough, and Harrison Township have been identified internally through data as the second priority zone. The service, if funded, would provide on demand, first/last mile and intra-zone connections to PRT Routes 1 and P10 serving this area.

The service addresses critical local mobility needs which cannot cost-effectively be met with fixed route transit service operated with conventional transit buses. Both of the areas that would be served by this project have significant populations of transportation-disadvantaged persons who lack access to automobiles. Additionally, the project tailors transit service to less intensely developed communities such as Tarentum, Brackenridge, and Harrison which are not able to support high levels of conventional transit to access employment and educational opportunities, medical care, government services, retail activities, and recreation.

The *Harrison, Brackenridge Tarentum Comprehensive Plan: Forging Our Future* has identified a need for “increased and improved transit/shuttle services to enable residents of Harrison-Brackenridge-Tarentum to access food stores, health care, goods and services, employment, and recreation.” This project follows up on this plan’s recommendation’s for improving transit service.

For these reasons, I enthusiastically support the PRT’s application for the Microtransit Pilot Project.

Sincerely,