



**James R. Sayer, PhD** · Director

July 1, 2020

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration- Chicago Regional Office  
Mr. Lee Shirey, Grant Representative  
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3280  
Chicago, IL 60604-1512

RE: PWEAA2020 FY 2020 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program for the Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Broadband Conduit

Dear Mr. Shirey,

The Ann Arbor Region is filing an application with the EDA for the ANN ARBOR YPSILANTI CONDUIT AND FIBER INFRASTRUCTURE, under Funding Opportunity number PWEAA2020. Ann Arbor SPARK is the lead applicant.

The development of a new fiber and conduit infrastructure connecting the existing City of Ann Arbor fiber network to downtown Ypsilanti and the American Center for Mobility (ACM) is a critical addition to our community's main business arteries and will provide much needed infrastructure to accommodate the technology needed to promote business and industry. A fast, affordable, and reliable fiber optic access is a key factor to a business's decision on where to locate and to attract the best talent available.

The University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) has successfully collaborated with the City of Ann Arbor since 2011, utilizing the existing fiber network to deploy advanced transportation safety and mobility solutions within Ann Arbor. By expanding the fiber network it will allow UMTRI to equip even more roadway with similar technologies. The presence of the vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) equipment, which requires a fiber backhaul, attracts vehicle manufacturers and suppliers to the area to test the vehicle-based systems they've developed at ACM in a real-world roadway environment. Of equal importance is that the deployment of various V2I technologies and applications allow the community to improve mobility services for its residents. This in turn means that a larger segment of the population in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti can get to and from job opportunities, educational opportunities, and critical resources ( grocery store, pharmacy, doctor, etc.).

In summary, the extension of conduit and fiber creates opportunity for many in the community and has the potential to save lives through enhanced traffic safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Sayer', written in a cursive style.