

July 2, 2020

Ms. Susan Brehm, Regional Director (Acting)
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3280
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Brehm:

We are pleased to support the Ann Arbor SPARK proposal for EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) funding for the Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Broadband Conduit. The project entails the construction and installation of a fiber conduit backbone with connections to:

- Multiple jurisdictions in Washtenaw County: City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Pittsfield Township.
- The American Center for Mobility, a Southeast Michigan regional asset that supports the growing connected and autonomous vehicle (CAV) industry.
- Downtown Ann Arbor Smartzone and Downtown Ypsilanti Smartzone.
- Developed areas with businesses providing workforce employment, as well as underdeveloped, underutilized, and vacant properties that are ripe for redevelopment opportunities.
- Four different Opportunities Zones in Washtenaw County.

This initiative aligns with *Partnering for Prosperity: Economic Development Strategy for Southeast Michigan*, which employs a comprehensive approach to economic development for the seven-county Southeast Michigan region. *Partnering for Prosperity* includes 11 broad-based economic development strategies and associated action steps that advance the economic development plan.

This proposal will help advance important concepts including workforce development; manufacturing; innovation; and broadband/fiber-optic services that have the reliability and speed to meet communication and data transmittal needs of an array of business sectors. These are important elements to the broader regional strategies of Investing in Critical Infrastructure; Advancing Innovation and Technology, Business Climate, and Workforce Development. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis has underscored the reliance upon connected technology for communities to recover and promote future economic growth.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kevin A. Johnson, SEMCOG Economic and Community Vitality at (313) 324-3353 or by email at johnson@semcog.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Lomako". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Kathleen Lomako
Executive Director