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News from:Western Reserve Port Authority (WRPA)Date:March 14, 2023Contact:WRPA - Krista Beniston, Planning Manager, 234-228-9696City of Warren - Mike Keys, Director Community Development, 330-841-2595City of Niles – Steven Mientkiewicz, Mayor, 330-544-9000Howland Township – Darlene St. George, Administrator, 330-856-2340Weathersfield Township - David Rouan, Administrator, 330-652-6326

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Youngstown, OH, March 14, 2023) – Western Reserve Port Authority and Partner Communities Launch Request for Proposals for Trumbull County Broadband Engineering Study

The Western Reserve Port Authority, in collaboration with the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, Trumbull County Planning Commission, and communities of City of Warren, City of Niles, Howland Township, and Weathersfield Township, are pleased to announce the launch of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Trumbull County Broadband Engineering Study.

The Trumbull County Broadband Engineering Study will identify routes to provide high-speed broadband service to regional businesses and historically underserved communities in Trumbull County. The study will also identify partnerships to deploy broadband services and recommend innovative funding opportunities to leverage public-private investment in the project's implementation.

The primary focus will be on existing underserved businesses, institutions, and households, as well as future development areas most ripe for catalytic commercial/industrial investment such as industrial parks, commercial corridors, and brownfield redevelopment sites.

The study will help implement the recommendations of Eastgate's Regional Broadband Feasibility Study. It will serve as the next step in developing detailed recommendations and fundable projects to deploy middle network and last-mile broadband in underserved portions of the Trumbull County.

The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded the Wester Reserve Port Authority \$50,000 for the study as part of their POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Economic Revitalization) Initiative.

Interested consultants can submit proposals to Krista Beniston by March 30 at 2 PM.

About WRPA: The Western Reserve Port Authority was created in 1992 to operate the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport. Using the unique powers granted to port authorities by Ohio law, the WRPA has evolved into a dynamic, multi-faceted agency dedicated to promoting growth and economic development in the Mahoning Valley.

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