

Appendix A: Letters of Support & Commitment

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Letters of Support from US and State Senators and Representatives

United State Senate – Senator Rob Portman

United States House of Representatives, 11th District, Marcia Fudge

United States House of Representatives, 9th District, Marcy Kaptur

Ohio Senate, 21st District, Sandra R. Williams

Ohio Senate, 23rd District, Michael J. Skindell

Ohio House of Representatives, 10th District, Bill Patmon

Ohio House of Representatives, 13th District, House Minority Whip, Nickie J. Antonio

Additional Letters of Support

Bike Cleveland

CanalWay Partners

City of Cleveland, Office of the Council, Council Member, Ward 3, Kerry McCormack

City of Cleveland, Office of the Council, Council Member, Ward 13, Council President, Kevin J. Kelley

City of Cleveland, Office of the Council, Council Member, Ward 15, Matt Zone

Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority

Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Lutheran Hospital

Cleveland Foundation

Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Green City Blue Lake Institute

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Cleveland Rowing Foundation

Cleveland State University, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs

Cuyahoga County Executive, Armond Budish

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

Destination Cleveland

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization

Downtown Cleveland Alliance

Edgewater Hill Block Club

Franklin Clinton Block Club

Fund for Our Economic Future
The George Gund Foundation
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
LAND Studio
North Bridge Management/BNR Medical Consulting
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Ohio City Incorporated
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Randall/Whitman/John/Woodbine Block Club
Rotary Club of Cleveland
Saint Ignatius High School
Tremont West Development Corporation
The Trust for Public Land
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Wendy Park Foundation
West Creek Conservancy
Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Commitment

Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, Board Materials Excerpt, Re-Connecting Cleveland TIGER Grant Action Item

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the Cleveland Metroparks for funding in the 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program.

I understand Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and LAND Studio. The Partnership seeks funding for the *Re-connecting Cleveland Project*, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

Cleveland Metroparks' officials state that the requested funding will make possible completion of a regional network of shared use trails. The project will help stabilize local neighborhoods, provide convenient and low-cost transportation options, generate opportunities for economic reinvestment and provide city residents with access to jobs, and public transportation.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Linda Greenwood, at (419) 259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator

MARCI A. FUDGE
11TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE**

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY,
HORTICULTURE AND RESEARCH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2016

WASHINGTON OFFICE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2344 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7032; (202) 225-1339 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICES

RICHMOND HIGHLAND CENTER
4834 RICHMOND ROAD, SUITE 150
WARRENVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128
(216) 522-4900; (216) 522-4908 FAX

LAWTON COMMUNITY CENTER
1225 LAWTON STREET
AKRON, OHIO 44128
(330) 835-4758; (330) 835-4863 FAX

E-MAIL: <http://fudge.house.gov>

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of Cleveland Metroparks' *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities* application for the USDOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant. Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership including the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio, bringing a variety of stakeholders together for critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

Re-Connecting Cleveland is an innovative project that will help complete and link several critical regional bike and pedestrian trails, including the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park, and downtown Cleveland as well as new job and service opportunities. These project elements represent an opportunity to correct decades of isolation, reduced property values and disparity in area neighborhoods by overcoming transportation barriers that have severely impacted resident mobility, access to employment, educational opportunities and outdoor recreation.

Thank you for consideration of this request. Re-Connecting Cleveland will help stabilize local neighborhoods, provide convenient and low-cost transportation options, and generate opportunities for economic re-investment. It will also provide city residents with access to jobs, public transportation and two major green space venues which have been inaccessible for decades – the Lake Erie shoreline and the Cuyahoga River. If you have any questions, please contact my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-7032.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER

Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on Defense

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY



MARCY KAPTUR
9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

April 22, 2016

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

2186 Rayburn Building

Washington, DC 20515-3509

(202) 225-4146

Fax: (202) 225-7711

OHIO OFFICES

(800) 964-4699

Fax: (419) 255-9623

<http://kaptur.house.gov>

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my full support for the proposal being advanced by the Cleveland Metroparks, "*Reconnecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*," to the U.S. Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program (TIGER VIII). Cleveland Metroparks is proposing a transformational project that will complete several bicycle and walking trails and will include a new bridge. The plan will provide connectivity for residents of several neighborhoods that have been physically isolated and negatively impacted by decades of disinvestment.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio. The proposal will complete a link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle and pedestrian routes. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway, in particular, would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park, and downtown Cleveland. Reconnecting these vital transportation arteries will give residents access to jobs, services and recreational opportunities on safe and well-designed bicycle and pedestrian trails.

In keeping with the goals of the TIGER grant program, Cleveland Metroparks has created a plan that allows residents to enjoy Cleveland's many wonderful assets and restores transportation options. I urge the application's favorable review consistent with your agency's rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcy Kaptur".

MARCY KAPTUR
U.S. Representative





**SENATOR
SANDRA R. WILLIAMS**
21ST DISTRICT

Committees
Public Utilities - *Ranking Member*
Finance - Sub-Committee on Workforce
Development, *Vice Chair*
Criminal Justice
Education
Energy and Natural Resources
Insurance
Medicaid
Ways and Means

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate my support for Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*.

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

We are particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra R. Williams".

Columbus Office: Senate Building • 1 Capitol Square • Columbus, OH 43215
Email: Williams@ohiosenate.gov
Phone: 614-466-4857 • Fax: 614-466-4120



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-5123

Committees:
Finance - *Ranking Minority Member*
Civil Justice - *Ranking Minority Member*
Agriculture
Criminal Justice
Finance - General Government Subcommittee
Government Oversight and Reform

Michael J. Skindell
State Senator
23rd District

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate my support for Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities.

I understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

I am particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Skindell".

Michael J. Skindell
State Senator
23rd Senate District



**Representative Bill Patmon
10th District**

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*.

I understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

I am particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Patmon".

Representative Bill Patmon
10th House District

Committees:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Community and Family Advancement
- Education

www.house.state.oh.us

77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-7954

FAX: 614-719-0010

Email: rep10@ohiohouse.gov



**Nickie J. Antonio
State Representative, House District 13**

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate my support for Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*.

I understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

I am particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nickie J. Antonio".

Nickie J. Antonio

House Minority Whip

State Representative

District 13

Committees:

Finance
Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Health and Aging
Rules and Reference

www.house.state.oh.us

77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-5921
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
FAX: 614-719-3913
Email: Rep13@ohiohouse.gov



April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As Bike Cleveland, the region's bicycle advocacy organization, works towards creating environments where it is safe for people of all ages and abilities to comfortably walk or bike as a mode of transportation, it is exciting to see this collaborative funding application being submitted. The projects included in the Connecting Cleveland TIGER VIII application support our vision for a connected network of multi-modal facilities that will continue to foster a growth in the number of people using active transportation options.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions feel free contact me at 216-245-3101 or at Jacob@bikecleveland.org.

Sincerely,


Jacob VanSickle, Executive Director





CANALWAY PARTNERS

The Towpath. Canal Basin Park.
And Beyond.

Board of Directors Executive Committee

Chair

Gary Klasen,
Eaton Corporation

Vice Presidents

Tom Yablonsky,
Downtown Cleveland Alliance

Patrick Holland,
Solid Waste District, Retired

Secretary

Jack Kluznik,
Weston Hurd

Treasurer
Barbara Deeds,
The Manning Group

Trustees
Patrick Cook,
Microsoft Corporation

Anthony Coyne,
Mansour, Gavin, Gerlack
& Manos, LPA

Michael Dostal,
First Merit Bank

Bob Hudecek,
Neighborhood Capital
Corporation, Retired

Ed McCabe,
McCabe Engineering

John Mino,
Calfee, Halter and Griswold, LLP

Chris Ronayne,
University Circle, Inc.

Jack Rupert,
President, Broadview Savings,
Retired

David Wagner,
Chartwell Group

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate Canalway Partners support of Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*.

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

We are particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

Executive Director,
Canalway Partners



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Office of the Council

www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

Kerry McCormack COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 3

COMMITTEES: Health & Human Services • Development, Planning & Sustainability • Safety

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER

VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As city councilperson for Ward 3, I strongly support this network of trails because it helps connect residents and workers in the Ward 3 neighborhoods of Ohio City, Tremont, Flats and Clark-Metro to both jobs and recreational assets in downtown and in other parts of the near west side. Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact me at 216-664-2691.

Sincerely,

Councilman Kerry McCormack

City Hall 601 Lakeside Avenue N. E., Room 220, Cleveland, OH 44114 • **Phone** (216) 664-2691 • **Fax** (216) 664-3837

Email kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Office of the Council

www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

Kevin J. Kelley COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 13 • COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COMMITTEES: Finance - Chair • Rules - Chair
Mayor's Appointments • Operations

April 14, 2106

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio and is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As City Council President for Cleveland, I strongly support this network of trails because it helps connect residents and workers in the city to both jobs and recreational assets in downtown and in other parts of the near west side.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Rice (216)664-4579 crice@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Kelley

President, Cleveland City Council



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Office of the Council

www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

Matt Zone COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 15

COMMITTEES: Safety - Chair • Workforce & Community Benefits - Vice Chair
Development, Planning & Sustainability • Finance • Operations

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As Councilman for Ward 15 on a portion of Cleveland where most of this project would be constructed, I strongly support this network of trails because it helps connect residents and workers in the Gordon Square neighborhood to both jobs and recreational assets in downtown and in other parts of the near west side.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 216-664-4235.

Respectfully,

Matt Zone

Matt Zone
Fifteenth Ward Council Member



April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio that is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

The Port of Cleveland's focus extends beyond the development of the maritime industry. We have made significant investments on the Cuyahoga River. We would like to see the potential of the river realized from both an economic and recreational perspective. We understand that completion of the Connection Cleveland projects will improve the quality of life for Cleveland residents, make the City a more attractive place to live and work as well as improve accessibility to jobs, nature and recreation thousands of the region's poorest citizens.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216-241-8004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William D. Friedman".

William D. Friedman
President & CEO



Donald A. Malone, Jr., M.D.
President, Lutheran Hospital
Director, Center for Behavioral Health

April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

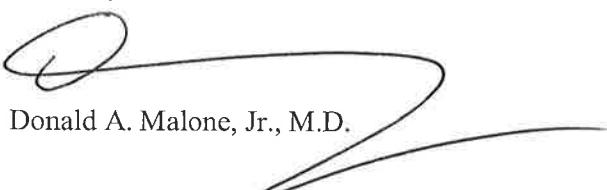
Cleveland Metroparks is lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As president of the only local hospital that would have direct access to this network of multiuse trails, I recognize the value that such trails would bring to our patients, our workforce and to our neighbors. Our hospital leadership intends to promote and encourage our staff, patients and local residents to use these trails for exercise, relaxation, and commuting. We sponsor weekly community walks led by healthcare providers around the neighborhood, and having access to pedestrian trails would bring out many more participants, increase the ease of access to our local natural resources, and allow for increased safety for our varied able-bodied walkers. An accessible network of trails increases the desirability of our hospital for employees and provides health-promoting activities for our local patients.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Malone, Jr., M.D.



April 26, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that directly impacts lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland. The Cleveland Foundation has been a committed partner and supporter of this trail effort since its inception by providing funds to enable the project sponsors to plan for acquisition, design and construction of the trail as far back as 2008.

In 2014, the Cleveland Foundation celebrated its 100th Anniversary, making a series of Centennial legacy gifts to the Greater Cleveland community. Among those gifts was \$5 million to the Connecting Cleveland project which has enabled construction to begin on initial phases of the overall trail network. By creating direct bicycle and pedestrian linkages from Cleveland's lakefront & riverfront to thousands of public housing residents, historic neighborhoods, emerging job centers and to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, this project strongly aligns with the Cleveland Foundation's commitment to improving social equity and quality of life for all residents of Greater Cleveland.

With your support, Cleveland can finish this project in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Instead of dwelling on past mistakes, we will open up our city's riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact me at reckardt@clevefdn.org, or 216.615.7154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Eckardt".

Robert Eckardt, Dr. P.H.
Executive Vice President



April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to support the Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery* (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

The Connecting Cleveland project will help to complete an alternative transportation network that local environmentalists and sustainable transportation activists have been working on for many years. We are very close to having one of the best urban trail networks in one of the most amazing urban spaces (the Flats of Cleveland) in the world. This project will fill in the missing links. And, with the help of this grant, we can finish by 2019 — in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the infamous Cuyahoga River fire. We can show how Cleveland has been restored, has embraced its natural resources, and has become a new kind of green city on a blue lake.

I can't think of a more catalytic project. This is about leveraging past investments to build the nationally recognized Towpath Trail and reconnect Cleveland neighborhoods to the waterfront. It's about providing safe access to recreation, jobs, and schools for residents of all incomes. It's about changing people's perceptions about transportation and urban life.

If you have any questions, please contact me at dbeach@cmnh.org or 216-231-4600 x3366.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Beach".

David Beach
Director, GreenCityBlueLake Institute
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

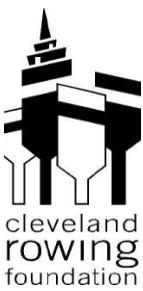
Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio that is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress is a local community development funding intermediary with over twenty-five years of experience investing in community revitalization work in the City of Cleveland. Our organization provides programs and services to build community capacity, increase assets for residents, invest in physical development, and create neighborhoods of choice and opportunity throughout Cleveland. We view Connecting Cleveland's network of trails as a vital tool to help advance our vision for all of Cleveland's neighborhoods to be attractive, vibrant communities where people from all incomes, races, and generations thrive, prosper, and choose to live, learn, work, invest, and play.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216.453.1441 or jratner@clevelandnp.org.

Sincerely,


Joel Ratner
President & CEO



CLEVELAND ROWING FOUNDATION

1003 British Street, Cleveland, OH 44113

www.clevelandrows.org

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio that is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

On behalf of the Cleveland Rowing Foundation (CRF), I fully support Cleveland Metroparks application for funds to support the Re-Connecting Cleveland Project. CRF is located adjacent to Cleveland Metroparks, and together with the Crooked River Skate Park, is part of the new recreational hub on the Cuyahoga River. At CRF, we value the creation of recreational options for Cleveland residents, and we recognize that this network of bike and walking trails will allow residents to have more exposure to river sports and better access to our facilities. We strongly support multimodal recreational opportunities, and these multiuse trails will directly connect river sports, the skate park, and a multiuse trail.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216-308-4183 or by email at clevelandrowing@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Kirk Lang
CRF Executive Director



April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate my support for Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*. The Levin College has ongoing professional relationships with the organizations that are making this proposal, both for research contributions and engagement of students in client-based projects.

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

We are particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. Mr. James Kastelic from TPL and I oversaw a student project focused on the Centennial Trail two years ago that served as the focal point for enhanced neighborhood amenities and proposals to link an extremely underserved portion of the neighborhood residents, who reside in public housing, to the green space assets and the lake front. The project won a national-level award from the American Institute of Certified Planners because of its likely impact on revitalization of the lake shore neighborhood in Cleveland that will be served by the current proposed project. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes for neighborhood residents.

The Levin College supports efforts such as these in our ongoing work to provide support and partnerships with community organizations to rebuild and revitalize Cleveland. Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wendy Kellogg
Professor of Urban Planning & Associate Dean for Research



ARMOND BUDISH
Cuyahoga County Executive

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

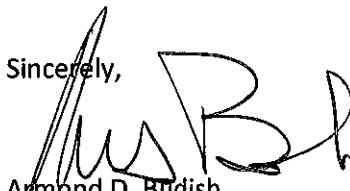
Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio that is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts.

As the County Executive for Cuyahoga County, I strongly support this important project because it will provide greatly improved access to the largest concentration of jobs in the entire county from one of the most densely populated and economically disadvantaged areas of this region. Improving access to both jobs and the lakefront parks in a part of the county where 30% of the population does not have access to a car is a critical opportunity to improve the economic and physical well-being for thousands of Cuyahoga County residents.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open this trail in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Armond D. Budish
Cuyahoga County Executive



April 18, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate support of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) for Cleveland Metroparks application for \$9,369,000 for the USDOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program (TIGER VIII).

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the City of Cleveland, and LAND Studio seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

CMHA is particularly supportive of this application, because a number of our key residential properties are within a short distance of the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail and other investments supported by the grant. We provide housing for 1,949 low-income residents immediately adjacent to the bike and pedestrian trails, which would be supported by the TIGER grant. We believe that the Wendy Park Bridge and the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway in particular would provide vastly better access for our residents to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park, and downtown Cleveland as well as new job and service opportunities and overall mobility across the board.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of Clevelanders, and particularly on the lives of our residents.

Sincerely,

Jeffery K. Patterson
Chief Executive Officer

Jeffery K. Patterson, Chief Executive Officer, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority



April 21, 2016

Honorable Secretary Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
West Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of The Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland dba Destination Cleveland, please accept this letter in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$19.45 million to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio and is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts.

Destination Cleveland's mission is to drive economic impact and stimulate community vitality for Greater Cleveland through leisure and business travel. We have conducted extensive local and national research to determine how best to continue capitalizing on significant infrastructure investments to ensure their impacts are felt well into the future. The research identified significant opportunities to better connect our investments so that visitors can seamlessly experience all of Cleveland's world-class attractions, neighborhoods and destinations. The Re-Connecting Cleveland project continues efforts to seamlessly connect these assets.

Destination Cleveland offers its full support for this request and encourages the Department of Transportation (DOT/FTA) to fund this project through the TIGER 2016 Discretionary Grant program. Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Gilbert".

David Gilbert
President & CEO
Destination Cleveland



DETROIT SHOREWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

The Gordon Square Arcade
6516 Detroit Avenue, Suite 1
Cleveland, OH 44102-3057
216-961-4242
216-961-8830 Fax
www.detroitshoreway.org

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio that is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As one of Cleveland's near west side neighborhoods that would benefit directly from this trail network, our residents would enjoy increased access to major lakefront parks as well as better connectivity to the riverfront and to job centers.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (216) 961-4242 x 247 or jspencer@dscdo.org.

Sincerely,

Jenny Spencer
Managing Director



April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

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President & CEO

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to Downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland. DCA has been successful in creating residential, business, retail, and recreational options in Downtown Cleveland while helping to attract more than \$6 billion in development to our urban core over the past eight years. The TIGER-funded trails will augment the connectivity among and beyond these investments, increasing accessibility for a broad spectrum of community members who use Downtown as shoppers, entertainment seekers, workers, residents or all of the above.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River gained infamy for catching on fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we are showcasing the rehabilitation of our waterfronts and revitalization of our city by creating opportunities for travel and recreation along our river and lakefront.

If you have any questions, please contact do not hesitate to contact me at 216-736-7799.

Sincerely,

Joseph Marinucci
President & CEO

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

As co-chair of the Edgewater Hill Block Club, I am proud to support the Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

As Cleveland residents, we know first-hand the importance of reconnecting our city to our lake and river – our region's most important assets. The following projects included in Re-Connecting Cleveland will have tremendous impact on the lives of Clevelanders, not only from a quality of life standpoint but in terms of access to jobs, schools and businesses:

- Wendy Park Bridge – This will connect the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail on the West Bank of the Flats to Wendy Park
- Canal Basin Connector – To connect Canal Basin to the Lake Link Trail at Superior Viaduct
- Lakefront Bikeway Connector – connecting the Lake Link trail at Center Street & Main Ave to the Lakefront (Shoreway Trail) with a spur that goes up Main Ave to West 25th & Detroit Ave.
- Red Line Greenway – From Zone Recreation Center at 65th/Lorain to RTA Viaduct over the Cuyahoga/Lake Link Trail at Columbus Rd.
- Whiskey Island Connector – this trail will connect Edgewater and Wendy Parks

The Cleveland Metroparks organization has been a strong partner in reestablishing the beauty of the Edgewater Park and working with the neighborhood to gather input on how to maximize the use of the park and enhance our neighborhood. This next phase will continue to connect and urban area and its residence with the lake and river.

Re-Connecting Cleveland is a tremendous opportunity that will impact the lives of all Clevelanders. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216.835.6925.

Sincerely,

Howard L Grandon

Co-Chair Edgewater Block Club

Owner of Grand Avenue Properties, LLC

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We are writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

The Franklin-Clinton Block Club represents a growing and economically diverse residential neighborhood that is immediately adjacent to these trail projects. We have been cut off from the lake ever since railroad lines were constructed in the 1860s. Residents eagerly await the day the trails can open and finally connect us to the waterfront that we see from our homes but yet not reach on foot without significant detours. Our Block Club voted its unanimous support of this project at its April meeting.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Desotell at 216-905-2061 or kdesotell30@gmail.com .

Sincerely,

Karen Desotell

Secretary

Franklin Clinton Block Club



April 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I serve as president of the Fund for Our Economic Future, an alliance of funders dedicated to advancing economic growth and equitable access to opportunity for the people of Northeast Ohio. Over the last decade plus, our Fund has raised more than \$100 million to support improved job creation, job preparation and job access. We have learned that places and connectivity are essential to a region's health. I write to express support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Over the last several years, our Fund has worked with these organizations on a variety of initiatives, but most notably on the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium's Vibrant NEO 2040 Plan. This plan, which involved thousands of leaders across 12 counties of Northeast Ohio, made clear that strong and decisive steps need to be taken in our core cities to make them more attractive to the next generation of employees and visitors. The Towpath Trail network is a critical component of this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on Northeast Ohioans. With your support, we can open this trail in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 216-456-9801 or bwhitehead@thefundneo.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Whitehead".

Brad Whitehead
President, Fund for Our Economic Future

216.241.3114

1845 GUILDHALL BUILDING

Fax 216.241.6560

45 PROSPECT AVENUE WEST

CLEVELAND, OHIO

The George Gund Foundation

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland, the region's primary employment center, and its waterfront. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and leverage investments that directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

The Foundation is proud to have supported the Lake Link Trail with a \$2,000,000 grant to the Trust for Public Land. Re-Connecting Cleveland provides an opportunity to address a number of needs in our community. It offers greater access to our waterfront and provides multi-modal transportation options that connect residents to jobs, links to regional assets like Ohio's only national park and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail, and it begins to address the more than fifty years of poor transportation decisions that have isolated the residents of Lakeview Terrace.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (216) 241-3114 or jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org

Sincerely,



John Mitterholzer
Senior Program Officer



The Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1302
Phone: 216-566-5100
rideRTA.com

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), please accept this letter in strong support of the Cleveland Metroparks Re-Connecting Cleveland Project.

The ability to connect Northeast Ohio residents to the many world-class public amenities in the Northeast Ohio region is crucial to the vibrancy and the quality of life in the Greater Cleveland region. This project will do just that, and most importantly provide access for the many less privileged that have had no or very limited access to such amenities thus far.

The reach of this creative Metroparks project is significantly expanded through the relationship with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's bikes on buses and bikes on trains programs.

All GCRTA buses and trains are equipped for bicycle access, allowing users to connect from region-wide public transit to the Metroparks Connecting Cleveland Project.

Therefore, GCRTA offers its full support for Cleveland Metroparks Connecting Cleveland Project and strongly urges the Department of Transportation (DOT/FTA) to fund this project through the TIGER 2016 Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Calabrese, CEO
General Manager
Secretary-Treasurer

JAC:msl

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that directly impacts lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland. The Cleveland Foundation has been a committed partner and supporter of this trail effort since its inception by providing funds to enable the project sponsors 10 plan for acquisition, design and construction of the trail as far back as 2008.

LAND studio's mission is to create places and connect people through public art, sustainable building and design, collaborative planning, and dynamic programming. The various components of the Re-Connecting Cleveland project are strongly aligned with our mission. Having worked actively for several years on various components of the plan, we feel that a TIGER grant would make a strong and significant impact on the quality of life for Cleveland's residents.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open this trail in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either via phone (216.621.5413) or email (azoller@LAND-studio.org).

Sincerely,



Ann M. Zoller
Executive Director

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio that is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts.

As a downtown resident and the owner of several commercial properties directly adjacent to the Towpath Trail, I am very excited about the Trail's potential Impact on Cleveland. The increased connectivity created by the completed trail will help drive additional investment to this under-utilized portion of the City and enable me to further develop my properties and maximize the impact created by our proximity to the Trail.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open this trail in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. On behalf of the Re-Connecting Cleveland partnership, the city and myself, thank you in advance for your consideration of this impactful project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rafid Fadul, MD, MBA
President, North Bridge Management Corp.
Principal, BNR Medical Consulting
202.557.5361
rafid.fadul@gmail.com

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- Blake Rear, Commissioner
Geauga County

Assistant Treasurer

- Julius Caccia, Jr., Chief Executive Officer
N E Ohio Regional Sewer District

Assistant Treasurer

- Susan K. Infield, Mayor
City of University Heights

(Immediate Past Board President)

- Ted Kalo, Commissioner
Lorain County

Samuel J. Alai

- Mayor
City of Broadview Heights

Lynda Bowers

- Trustee
Lafayette Township

Tanisha R. Briley

- City Manager
City of Cleveland Heights

Holly Brinda

- Mayor
City of Elyria

Joseph A. Calabrese

- General Manager CEO
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

Anthony Capretta

- Councilman
City of Brunswick

Kenneth P. Carney, Sr., P.E., P.S.

- Engineer
Lorain County

Walter (Skip) Claypool

- Commissioner
Geauga County

Scott E. Coleman

- Mayor
City of Highland Heights

Freddy L. Collier, Jr.

- Director
Cleveland Planning Commission

Glenn Coynes, FAICP

- Executive Director
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Timothy J. DeGeter

- Mayor
City of Parma

Michael Dever

- Director
Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works

Ann Marie Donegan

- Mayor
City of Olmsted Falls

William D. Friedman

- President & CEO
Cleveland – Cuyahoga County Port Authority

Kirsten Holzheimer Gail

- Mayor
City of Euclid

G. David Gillock

- Mayor
City of North Ridgeville

James R. Gills, P.E., P.S.

- Engineer
Lake County

Anthony T. Hairston

- Councilman
Cuyahoga County

Frank G. Jackson

- Mayor
City of Cleveland

Ray Jurkowski

- General Manager
Lakewood

Martin J. Keane

- Councilman
City of Cleveland

Matt Lundy

- Commissioner
Lorain County

Kevin Malecek

- Commissioner
Lake County

Mamee J. Mitchell

- Councilwoman
City of Cleveland

Judy Moran

- Commissioner
Lake County

Myron S. Pakush

- Deputy Director
ODOT – District 12

Terrell H. Pruitt

- Councilman
City of Cleveland

Chase M. Ritenauer

- Mayor
City of Lorain

Michael J. Salay, P.E., P.S.

- Engineer
Medina County

Charles E. Smith

- Mayor
Village of Woodmere

Ralph Spidalieri

- Commissioner
Geauga County

Matthew L. Spronz, P.E., P.M.P.

- Director
of Capital Projects, City of Cleveland

Robert A. Stefanik

- Mayor
City of North Royalton

Deborah L. Sutherland

- Mayor
City of Bay Village

Ex officio Member

- Kurt Princic, District Chief Northeast District
Office, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland:
Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

This project supports the goals of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to build a sustainable and multimodal transportation system and improve quality of life for the region. As such, NOACA encourages the investment of TIGER funds to advance projects that lead to safe and reliable transportation alternatives for Northeast Ohio residents.

Thank you for consideration of this request. With your support, we can open this trail in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation, and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 241-2414, or by email at ggallucci@mpo.noaca.org.

Sincerely,

Grace Gallucci
Executive Director

GG/r/7099s

★ ★ ★

OHIO CITY

INCORPORATED
est 1836

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

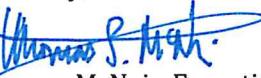
I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Located amidst the proposed trail network on both Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River, Ohio City is one of Cleveland's oldest neighborhoods. The proposed trail network would provide direct access to our lake and waterfronts and also providing direct and safe cycling routes to job centers. Many of our residents live near the lake and river in subsidized housing, but because of the limited access, are unable to access the natural beauty or resources available. These trails would greatly improve the accessibility.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact NAME, EMAIL, PHONE.

Sincerely,


Thomas McNair, Executive Director
Ohio City Incorporated
216-781-3222 x107



rails-to-trails
conservancy

April 22, 2016

Midwest Regional Office
716 Xenia Ave. Suite 2
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
614.837.6782

www.railstotrails.org
www.TrailLink.com

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program. Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio and is seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As the nation's largest trail organization, Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) has worked for almost 30 years to create accessible trail networks for people of all ages, abilities, race and income levels so that they can enjoy safe route to everywhere. This project fits into that vision in a way few others have. It also ties into one of our major nationally significant projects: the Industrial Heritage Trails Coalition (IHTC). IHTC is a four state trail network vision that will create 1,450 miles of trail, the largest envisioned project in the country. The northern terminus of the IHTC vision between Pittsburgh and Cleveland includes multiples pieces of the Re-Connecting Cleveland request. This excellent project also includes completing sections of the Erie to Cleveland IHTC corridor. Once completed, the IHTC network will connect Cleveland to Pittsburgh, which is already connected to Washington, DC via the Great Allegheny Passage and the C & O Canal. We envision a future when hopping on a bike at Wendy Park on Lake Erie and moving southward can conclude safely looking at the Capitol building on banks of the Potomac. This Re-Connecting Cleveland project will go a long way to achieving this goal. RTC is please to support it and asks for your full consideration in funding it.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Oberg, Director of Trail Development eric@railstotrails.org, 614-837-6782.

Sincerely,

Eric Oberg
Director of Trail Development
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Midwest Regional Office

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Randall/Whitman/John/Woodbine Block Club enthusiastically supports the Cleveland Metropark application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that directly impacts lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland. The Cleveland Foundation has been a committed partner and supporter of this trail effort since its inception by providing funds to enable the project sponsors 10 plan for acquisition, design and construction of the trail as far back as 2008.

Our block club is in part of Cleveland known as Ohio City, adjacent to downtown. About 1,800 people live in our block club area, with two hundred-fifty of those on our membership list. We all will greatly benefit from the planned connections from our neighborhood to the city's trail network. We have been waiting a long time for the trails and connections.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can complete the trail network in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. We are anxious to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and to continue the renaissance of our city. If you have any questions, please contact me at kathleen.knittel@gmail.com or 216-631-9191.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Knittel
Chair, Randall/Whitman/John/Woodbine Block club

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Rotary Club of Cleveland is particularly supportive of the request in light of our development of, and 40 year commitment to, the Red Line Greenway. The Cleveland Metroparks is a valued partner based upon their outstanding long-term performance in creating and maintaining world-class greenspace and trails. LAND studio and Trust for Public Land are trusted consultants whom we collaborate with and who have provided invaluable input to our project. As the Founder of the Red Line Greenway, I understand and respect the way urban trails and greenways connect neighborhoods, create healthy lifestyles, reinforce and expand our cultural assets, create sustainable environmentally friendly greenspaces, and promote economic development.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Lennie Stover at (440)-537-6461 or email me at redlinegreenway@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Lennie Stover 

Founder & Project Coordinator

Red Line Greenway, sponsored by Rotary Club of Cleveland



SAINT IGNATIUS

Cleveland • Jesuit • 1886

Office of the President

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

As President of Saint Ignatius High School, and as a resident of Ohio City, I would like to state my strong and unequivocal support for the TIGER grant application from the Cleveland Metroparks. The trails and connectivity infrastructure that can be created with these grant funds will significantly enhance the quality of life and strengthen the fabric of our neighborhood and city.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Various component trails of the Connecting Cleveland project are in and around the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland. Having been a key neighborhood anchor since 1886, St. Ignatius High School is fully aware of the impact that TIGER funding could have on not only residents of this neighborhood but also on educational experience that St. Ignatius provides to its students. St. Ignatius takes full advantage of the unique traits that this historic, urban, and diverse neighborhood offers. With this in mind, we thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open this trail in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rev. Raymond P. Guiao, S.J.

Rev. Raymond P. Guiao, S.J.
President



April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity
TIGER VIII Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

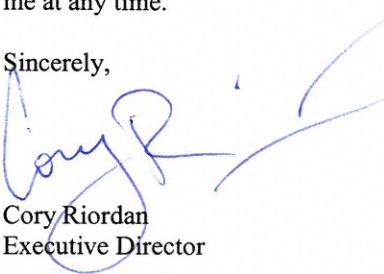
I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

As one of Cleveland's oldest neighborhoods with a rich social, cultural and natural history, Tremont West Development Corporation strongly supports this network of trails. The proposed trail network would provide direct access to our lake and waterfronts and also providing direct and safe cycling routes to job centers.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can open these trails in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we would like to open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation and show how a city can reinvent itself by facing and embracing its most daunting challenges. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,


Cory Riordan
Executive Director

OHIO

1621 Euclid Ave
Suite 1600
Cleveland, OH
44115
t: 216.928.7518
f: 215.928.7519

tpl.org

April 29, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-Connecting Cleveland TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Investment Generating Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is lead applicant for a partnership that includes The Trust for Public Land and LAND studio, seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project—a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and the waterfront. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

Thank you for consideration of this request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, components of Re-Connecting Cleveland will be completed in time to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the day the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Rather than dwell on past mistakes, we will open up the riverfront and lakefront to our citizens for travel and recreation—and show how a city can reinvent itself by overcoming transportation barriers that have divided city neighborhoods. Please contact me at 216.928.7518 or pam.carson@tpl.org should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Pamela A. Carson
State Director, Ohio
The Trust for Public Land



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141-3097

IN REPLY REFER TO:
10.D. (CUVA)

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park for Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*.

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

We are particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites, retail nodes and Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

Craig Kenkel
Superintendent



April 24, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' Re-connecting Cleveland: Pathways to Opportunity TIGER VIII Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

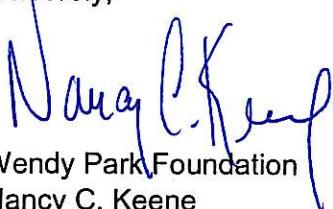
I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application for \$9,450,000 to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant Program.

Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land and LAND studio seeking funding for the Re-Connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. TIGER funds will be used to build on the existing investment in Ohio's nationally recognized Towpath Trail and to fill key gaps in the city's trails network to connect its neighborhoods to downtown Cleveland and its waterfronts. Re-Connecting Cleveland will enable safe access to jobs, schools, businesses, and recreation, and will leverage investments that will directly impact lower and mixed-income residents throughout Cleveland.

The terminus for this project is Wendy Park, a greenspace along the western edge of the Cuyahoga River where it meets Lake Erie. The park is currently separated from city residents and the Towpath Trail by railroad tracks and the old riverbed. Connecting Wendy Park to the Towpath Trail would link Lake Erie to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, located just six miles south of the park. This trail corridor, a ribbon of green in an industrial city, would provide biking and hiking opportunities for the many people that live and work along the river. The resulting trail system would transform pedestrian and biking access to downtown Cleveland and provide long sought access to Lake Erie for city residents.

Thank you for your consideration of the grant request and the impact this project will have on the lives of Clevelanders. With your support, we can demonstrate to residents and visitors how a city can reinvent itself by turning a burning river into a recreational gem, a must see trail along the shores of Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Keene

Wendy Park Foundation
Nancy C. Keene
Chairperson



April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 347113
Cleveland, OH 44134
T: 216-749-3720
F: 216-749-3730

Office Location
Rockside Office Plaza
1440 Rockside Road
Suite 329
Cleveland, OH 44134

www.westcreek.org

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please accept this letter on behalf of West Creek Conservancy in full support of Cleveland Metroparks' TIGER VIII application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities*.

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the *Re-connecting Cleveland* project, which is a transformative set of critical investments needed in Cleveland's alternative transportation network. We highly value this collaborative approach, as it will utilize the strengths and resources of organizations that are not only vested in Greater Cleveland, but who have also demonstrated effective and efficient implementation of similar projects and initiatives.

We are particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park and downtown Cleveland, as well as to employment centers, school sites and retail nodes.

Thank you for your consideration of this unique request, which will ultimately have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Schafer".

Derek Schafer
Executive Director



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to indicate support for Cleveland Metroparks' application for *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities* for the USDOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program (TIGER VIII).

We understand that Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership that includes the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio. The partnership is seeking funding for the Re-connecting Cleveland project, a transformative set of critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

We are particularly supportive of this application because it will help to complete and link to a structured pathway network, which includes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical bicycle/pedestrian trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park, and downtown Cleveland as well as new job and service opportunities.

Thank you for consideration of this request for a project providing such a great, positive impact on the lives of northeast Ohio residents.

Sincerely,

Jim Rokakis, Vice President
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Director – Thriving Communities

3850 Chagrin River Road • Moreland Hills, OH 44022

T 440.528.4150

www.wrlandconservancy.org

F 440.528.4160

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

Cleveland Metroparks Administrative Offices

**Rzepka Board Room
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144**

8:00 A.M. – REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

1. <u>ROLL CALL</u>		
2. <u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u>		
3. <u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING FOR APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT</u>		
• Regular Meeting of March 24, 2016	Page	81358
4. <u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>	Page	01
5. <u>NEW BUSINESS/CEO'S REPORT</u>		
a. <u>APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS</u>		
i) <u>General Action Items</u>		
(a) Chief Executive Officer's Retiring Guest(s):	Page	04
• Howard W. Ladwig, Sr. Ranger		
• Leo L. Marra, Technician		
(b) Re-Connecting Cleveland: Authorization to Submit an Application to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program	Page	05
ii) <u>TABULATION AND AWARD OF BIDS</u>		
<u>RECOMMENDED ACTION RELATED TO ALL BIDS:</u>	Page	07
(a) Bid #6163: 2016 Rocky River Channel Dredging, Rocky River Reservation	Page	08
(b) Bid #6182: Wendy Park Building Window Replacement, Historic Coast Guard Station, Lakefront Reservation	Page	10
(c) Ohio Co-Op #6183: Fuel and Heat Oil	Page	12
(d) Co-Op ODOT #6185: One (1) 33,000 GVW 4x4 Cab and Chassis for Bucket Truck (Replacement)	Page	13
(e) ORC 125.04 #6187: Dell Servers and Storage Equipment for Various Locations throughout Cleveland Metroparks (24 New/9 Replacements)	Page	14
(f) Ohio Co-Op #6189: 2016 Bulk Computer Purchase	Page	16
(g) Ohio Co-Op #6190: DEVOS Video & Encoding System from AVI/SPL	Page	18

April 21, 2016

Page 2

iii) PURCHASES PURSUANT TO BY-LAW, ARTICLE V	Page	20
iv) CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS	Page	25
b. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS AND PAYROLL – Resolution No. 16-04-065	Page	26
6. INFORMATION/BRIEFING ITEMS/POLICY		
a. Chief Executive Officer's Employee Guest(s):		
• Keith Carney, General Maintenance – Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	Page	27
• David Kish, Mechanic – Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	Page	27
b. 2016 Cleveland Metroparks Volunteer Appreciation Week	Page	27
c. 2015 Park District Visitation Results	Page	30
d. The Value of Land: Cleveland Metroparks 2006-2015	Page	31
7. OLD BUSINESS		
a. None.		
8. PUBLIC COMMENTS		
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING		
Regular Meeting – Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 8:00 a.m.		
Cleveland Metroparks Administrative Offices		
Rzepka Board Room		
4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland, Ohio 44144		
WORK SESSION		
1. Canal Basin Park Framework Plan		
EXECUTIVE SESSION		
1. Acquisition/Purchase of Real Property		

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

- (b) ***Re-Connecting Cleveland: Authorization to Submit an Application to the Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program***

(Originating Sources: Brian M. Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer/Richard J. Kerber, P.E., Project Manager/Sara Byrnes Maier, Senior Strategic Park Planner)

Background:

The federal Department of Transportation has announced a highly competitive grant program for national infrastructure investments that have a significant impact on a metropolitan area or region. Since the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary grant program was created in 2009, nearly \$4.6 billion has been awarded to 381 surface transportation projects, with an emphasis on innovative projects with multimodal components. The current round of TIGER makes available up to \$500 million nationwide. Successful applicants would likely be notified in fall of this year. The project would have to be certified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to be ready for encumbrance prior to July of 2019; all funds must be expended by September 2024.

The Trust for Public Land, LAND studio, and Cleveland Metroparks have been working collaboratively on completing the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail (CFCT) and other connecting trails along Cleveland's waterfronts. The team is seeking funding from the federal TIGER grant program to complete these initiatives (reference map, page 34). The proposed funding scenario is as follows:

Project Components	Cost	Local Match	Federal CMAQ Funds	TIGER Request
Wendy Park Bridge, Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail Connectors, Whiskey Island Connector, Red Line Greenway	\$16,450,000	\$4,920,000	\$2,080,000	\$9,450,000

The project includes the Wendy Park Bridge, Whiskey Island Connector trail, Red Line Greenway trail, and CFCT connectors to the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and Canal Basin Park. The TIGER grant would provide \$9,450,000 (57.4%) of the total \$16,450,000 project cost. Previously awarded Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the Red Line Greenway project in the amount of \$2,080,000 (12.6%) are also included. Local match totaling \$4,920,000 (29.9%) would be provided by The Trust for Public Land through their fundraising efforts, state capital funds for Wendy Park Bridge, a pending request to the Clean Ohio Trails Fund, and the local match portion required for the Red Line Greenway CMAQ award would also be applied.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the Board authorize the submittal of the grant application to the Department of Transportation for funding assistance from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program in the amount of \$9,450,000 for the above listed Re-Connecting Cleveland project components; with the local match component provided by fundraising efforts of The Trust for Public Land, state capital funds, anticipated Clean Ohio Trails Fund, and contributions from project partners; and further that the Board authorizes the funds to be made available as needed until reimbursement is received from the TIGER program; and further that the Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to enter into agreements and execute any documents as may be required to accept the grant award; form of agreements to be approved by the Chief Legal & Ethics Officer.

