

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3501

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to convey my support for the 2023 RAISE Grant application submitted by the City of Cincinnati to fund the Westwood Northern Boulevard Corridor Study (WNB Study).

A corridor plan for WNB and conceptual roadway design will provide area residents in Historically Disadvantaged Communities along most of the 3.8-mile corridor to participate in the development of this principal arterial that carries traffic directly to and from the two largest regional employment centers containing medical, educational, cultural, and research institutions, aka 'Uptown' and 'Downtown'.

Most of the blocks along the steep and windy WNB have little to no sidewalk. Existing narrow sidewalk abuts the curb and is unprotected from the fast traffic volumes. Funding for the plan will allow the City of Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOT) to work with all stakeholders to envision, design and build a better transportation network to better accommodate bikes, pedestrians, and mass transit users – alternative modes that will help low-income, minority, and zero-car households along the corridor.

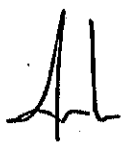
Other WNB needs include safer intersections, and other safety measures to address serious crash zones and costs. The untapped potential for safer alternative modes of transportation on WNB can be realized with study and redesign under complete street policies newly adopted by the City and OKI (MPO).

Past scarcity of financial resources often results in reduced funding for planning which then impacts the pipeline of shovel-ready projects for remaining available funds, consistent with Justice40. Conceptual WNB roadway design is a component of the corridor study, which will equitably promote the needs of HDC through the following goals:

- Safer complete streets and sidewalks to facilitate community connectivity and livability.
- Increased mobility, especially for underserved populations.
- Environmentally sustainable alternative modes of transportation to link disadvantaged populations with jobs, particularly zero-car households.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and investment in transportation infrastructure improvements like the Westwood Northern Boulevard Corridor Study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal flourish.

Greg Landsman
Member of Congress