

ATTACHMENT 11: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The proposed project is supported by elected officials, communities, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and area businesses. Please find the attached Letters of Support representing:

United States House of Representatives, 11th District – Shontel M. Brown
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Executive Director – Grace Gallucci
Cleveland Mayor – Justin M. Bibb
Cleveland City Council President – Blaine A. Griffin
Cleveland City Councilman – Kevin L. Bishop
Cleveland City Councilwoman – Rebecca Maurer
Cuyahoga County Executive – Chris Ronayne
Cuyahoga County Council President – Pernel Jones, Jr.
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
Garfield Heights, City of
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

Andreoli Restoration
Bike Cleveland
Canalway Partners
City Club of Cleveland
Cleveland Guardians Major League Baseball
Cleveland Hiking Club
Cleveland Indians
Cleveland State University, Office of the President
Cleveland State University, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs
Community Assessment Treatment Services
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Cuyahoga Community College
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
Destination Cleveland
Flats Forward
Globe Sewing Machine Co.
Greater Cleveland Partnership
LAND studio
Medical Mutual of Ohio
Monroe Tool & Manufacturing
Nature Conservancy
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Slavic Village Development Corporation
Third Federal Foundation
Third Federal Savings & Loan
Union Miles Development Corporation
Urban Land Institute - Cleveland
West Creek Conservancy

SHONTEL M. BROWN
11TH DISTRICT, OHIO

449 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7032

25200 CHAGRIN BOULEVARD, SUITE 200
BEACHWOOD, OH 44122
(216) 522-4900

17021 LORAIN AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OH 44111
(216) 535-1100

SHONTELBROWN.HOUSE.GOV

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES, RISK MANAGEMENT,
AND CREDIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, FOREIGN
AGRICULTURE, AND HORTICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH,
ENERGY POLICY, AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

February 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Cleveland Metroparks's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

The design of these two projects was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. To ensure that these projects are designed safely, Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland are collaborating closely with important community development corporations, key stakeholder agencies, and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, including Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, have been working together since 2014 to build this useful and accessible transportation network.

The projects will help residents of consistently underprivileged communities gain access to employment centers, schools, municipal assets, transit, and other opportunities. As a result, these shared-use trails, which are emphasized in the county's Cuyahoga Greenways Plan, are vital to our community. They will improve transit access for those in most need, minimizing the disparities that are present in our community.

In Northeast Ohio, we take great pride in our parks and natural resources. Our parks provide wonderful opportunities for our citizens to connect with nature and each other. Not only do these projects have the ability to benefit their health and increase recreation, but also instill a sense of pride in our county. By allowing citizens to traverse the full span of Cleveland, we can showcase the beauty of this wonderful part of our country.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal that will positively impact our region. I respectfully request that the Cleveland Metroparks's proposal be given careful review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



February 21, 2024

BOARD OFFICERS

President
Jeff Brandon, Trustee, Montville Twp., Medina County

First Vice President
Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive

Second Vice President
Justin Bibb, Mayor, City of Cleveland

Secretary
Timothy C. Lennon, Commissioner, Geauga County

Assistant Secretary
Annette M. Blackwell, Mayor, City of Maple Heights

Assistant Secretary
Aaron Harrison, Commissioner, Medina County

Assistant Secretary
Blaine Griffin, Cleveland City Council, Ward 6

Assistant Secretary
John Pecnik, Commissioner, Lake County

Treasurer
Jeff Riddell, Commissioner, Lorain County

Assistant Treasurer
Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor, City of University Heights

Assistant Treasurer
Andrew Conrad, P.E., P.S., Medina County Engineer

Assistant Treasurer
Mark Cunningham, Trustee, Columbia Twp. Lorain County

Assistant Treasurer
James W. Dvorak, Commissioner, Geauga County

Immediate Past President
John R. Hamercheck, Commissioner, Lake County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Samuel J. Alai, Mayor, City of Broadview Heights

Larry Antoskiewicz, Mayor, City of North Royalton

Pamela Bobst, Mayor, City of Rocky River

Kevin Brubaker, Mayor, City of Elyria

Jack Bradley, Mayor, City of Lorain

Ben Capelle, Chief Executive Officer, Laketran

Kenneth P. Carney, Sr., P.E., P.S., Lorain County Engineer

Matthew Castelli, Mayor, City of Middleburg Heights

Mary Cierblej, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Kevin Corcoran, Mayor, City of North Ridgeville

Timothy J. DeGeeter, Mayor, City of Parma

James DeRosa, Director Office of Capital Projects, City of Cleveland

Michael W. Dever, Director of Public Works, Cuyahoga County

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chief Executive Officer, NEORS

William D. Friedman, President and CEO, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority

Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, Mayor, City of Euclid

Meghan George, Mayor, City of Lakewood

James R. Gills, P.E., P.S., County Engineer, Lake County

Stephanie Howse Jones, Councilwoman, Ward 7, City of Cleveland

Joyce Pan Huang, Director, Cleveland City Planning Commission

Brian Kazy, Councilman, Ward 16, City of Cleveland

Rev. Charles Lucas, Board President, GCRTA

Calley Mersmann, Senior Strategist for Transportation and Mobility, City of Cleveland

Kerry McCormack, Councilman, Ward 3, City of Cleveland

Dale Miller, Cuyahoga County Councilman, District 2

David J. Moore, Commissioner, Lorain County

Robert Patrick, Service Director, City of Wadsworth

John Picuri, P.E., Deputy Director, District 12, ODOT

Richard Regovich, Commissioner, Lake County

Khalil Seren, Mayor, City of Cleveland Heights

Ralph Spidaleri, Commissioner, Geauga County

Kim Thomas, Mayor, Richmond Heights

Ex Officio Members:

Ferzan M. Ahmed, P.E., Executive Director, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission

David Emerman, District Chief, Northeast District Office, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Grace Gallucci, Executive Director & CEO

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency to express our strong support for Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

NOACA is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that represents the five counties of Greater Cleveland: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina. NOACA addresses the transportation, air quality, and water quality needs of Northeast Ohio, and works with its partners to develop and implement plans to ensure that travel throughout the region is safe, cost-effective and environmentally sound. In particular, NOACA develops the Long Range Plan (LRP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in the county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network, which aligns with the goals of NOACA's Long Range Plan, eNEO2050 – an Equitable Future for Northeast Ohio. This plan supports the creation of equitable



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
February 21, 2024
Page 2

multimodal connectivity throughout the region to improve access to jobs, education, recreation, and healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at 216-241-2414 x100, or ggallucci@mpo.noaca.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Gallucci", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Grace Gallucci
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

GG/bb/10117s



City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

Cleveland City Hall

601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 202

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

216/664-3990 • Fax 216/420-8766

www.cleveland-oh.gov

February 14, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE East Side Trails Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network. We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts.

Our RAISE projects will help Cleveland advance planning initiatives such as 15 Minute Cities, Vision Zero Cleveland, Complete & Green Streets and the Cleveland Climate Action Plan. These are important goals that my administration is committed to seeing through to ensure Cleveland is fully embracing its opportunity to make neighborhoods safer, healthier and economically stronger in a way that embraces a climate-friendly, active transportation-focused, resident-centered approach.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the City of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Government Affairs Officer, Ryan Puente, at (216) 664-3544 or via email at rpunte@clevelandohio.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M. Bibb", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin M. Bibb
Mayor | City of Cleveland



Blaine A. Griffin PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 6

COMMITTEES: Finance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - *Chair* • Rules - *Chair* • Mayor's Appointments • Operations

February 26, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at 216-664-4579.

Sincerely,

Blaine A. Griffin
Council President
Cleveland City Council



Kevin L. Bishop COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 2

COMMITTEES: Municipal Services & Properties - *Chair* • Finance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion • Transportation & Mobility
Utilities • Operations

February 20, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am delighted to express my strong endorsement of Cleveland Metroparks' application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This application pertains to the construction of two critical shared-use trail initiatives in the city of Cleveland, Ohio: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension.

The funding for the design of the projects included in this application was obtained from a 2021 RAISE award designated for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland maintain collaborative efforts with community development corporations, critical stakeholder organizations, and notably the neighboring neighborhoods to progress the design of these two initiatives. These endeavors aim to establish secure connections between residents residing in persistently impoverished regions and various amenities such as job centers, schools, civic resources, transit, and more. These shared-use paths are county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan priorities because they facilitate connections for residents who require transportation the most. As a result, they are vital to our region.

The present RAISE application submission is an extension of the collaborative endeavors of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, an organization composed of Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. The Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have been diligently constructing this practical and easily navigable transportation network since 2014. We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 664-4945.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. L. Bishop".

Kevin L. Bishop
Cleveland City Council, Ward 2



Rebecca Maurer COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 12

COMMITTEES: Health, Human Services & the Arts • Municipal Services & Properties • Transportation & Mobility • Rules

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts. These trails have been years in the making and this grant will make a significant difference for tens of thousands of Clevelanders and almost all the residents of my Ward who are seeking safe, reliable non-car transit options.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at 216-664-4233 or by email at rmaurer@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

Sincerely,



February 26, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Enabling a safe, healthy and connected transportation system is a key tenant of my administration. This priority ensures that residents of all socioeconomic background and income levels can reach key economic, educational, health, and recreational opportunities in Cuyahoga County by multiple modes of transportation.

I am writing a letter of strong support for the Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the construction of two shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

The application follows a successful RAISE planning grant in 2021 for planning and design of four critical gaps in the Cuyahoga Greenways Plan, our plan for a countywide network of connected trails and greenways. Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County through the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact Cuyahoga County's Senior Advisor on Transportation, Annie Pease at APease@cuyahogacounty.us or 216-443-7984.

Sincerely,

Chris Ronayne
Cuyahoga County Executive



Pernel Jones, Jr.

Cuyahoga County Council President District 8

Committee Vice Chair: Community Development

Committee Member: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Committee Member: Finance & Budgeting

Committee Member: Council Operations, Intergovernmental Relations & Public Transportation

February 16, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, thank you for funding Northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021. Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to build two of these trail projects.

I am happy to be writing again in support of the Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, the city of Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which include Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have on us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at pjones@cuyahogacounty.us or 216-698-2010.

Sincerely,

Pernel Jones, Jr., President
Cuyahoga County Council



County Planning

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

2079 EAST 9TH ST, 5-300
CLEVELAND, OH 44115

216.443.3700
COUNTYPLANNING.US

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

February 14, 2024

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First let me say thank you! Because you provided RAISE funding for design in 2021, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission (County Planning) led the development of the Cuyahoga Greenways Plan, an active transportation network, which identified these two projects as priority connections. We lead the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners (CGP) which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies that continue working together to advance these two important trail segments, as well as a number of other projects in the plan.

County Planning provides professional expertise in Master Planning, Zoning, Corridor Studies, GIS tools and mapping, Data Analysis, Parks & Greenspace planning and other support services to the fifty-nine communities in Cuyahoga County. Specifically, we completed an exciting Masterplan for the City of Garfield Heights which includes a trail connection to this soon-to-be Morgana Run/Booth Ave. extension.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request and past support. Should you have any questions about this project or require any additional information, please contact me at 216-443-3720 or mcierbiej@cuyahogacounty.us.

Sincerely,

Mary Cierebiej, AICP
Executive Director



February 14, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

Garfield Heights fully supports the construction of these trails and we look forward to the link to our community, The Cleveland Metroparks Garfield Park Reservation and our upcoming Garfield Boulevard Reconstruction and Trail Project. We look forward to the connectivity it will provide to retail and job hubs as well as recreation opportunities.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at mburke@garfieldhts.org or 216-475-4388.

Sincerely,

Matt Burke
Mayor



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

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

February 21, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), as well as Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

The Slavic Village Downtown Connector and the Morgana Run/Booth Ave Extension trails are being designed by Cleveland Metroparks in coordination with GCRTA's plans for bus rapid transit on Broadway Avenue and with anticipation of the FTA-funded Broadway TOD planning process which will begin this year. The new trail network will complement transit service by providing additional multimodal alternatives and first/last-mile connections.



Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the City of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at India.Birdsong-Terry@gcrta.org or 216-356-3100.

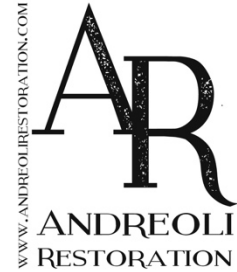
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "India L. Birdsong Terry".

India L. Birdsong Terry
General Manager & Chief Executive Officer

February 20, 2024

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



RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding our home region in Northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to build two of these trail projects now!

As a result, I proudly submit this support letter for the construction of these trails and for Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. These two shared-use trail projects are in our area of business and our hometown the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

Both of these projects go through our neighborhood and are very important to us. These key trails will remove barriers for non-car transportation options for our stakeholders and neighbors to get to the heart of Cleveland's downtown with its employment, educational, government services and entertainment resources. I have personally biked from our home to places of work, entertainment venues and sports arenas. Allowing me to enjoy these nearby amenities without the high cost of parking and simultaneously enjoying physical exercise. The current routes are undesirable and push bike traffic alongside large truck traffic and industrial traffic, making it difficult to breathe on the bike routes. The new routes will greatly improve health and access for our community.

We are raising our family and building a business in the Slavic Village Fleet and Broadway areas. We have witnessed first-hand the positive and powerful impact of infrastructure dollars spent for projects in our community. These dollars go to address the need for greater connectivity within the fabric of some of Cleveland's more impoverished areas.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at tiffanyandreoli@gmail.com or 330-388-2046.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Andreoli
Owner, Andreoli Restoration, LLC



February 8th, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of Bike Cleveland with unwavering support for Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This application seeks funding for the construction of two vital shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

The design of these projects, spearheaded by the Cleveland Metroparks and funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project, demonstrates a commitment to fostering equitable access to transportation and community resources. These shared-use paths will not only connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to essential destinations such as job centers, schools, and transit hubs but also promote active transportation options that enhance public health and well-being.

As outlined in the county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan, these projects align with regional priorities to expand transportation choices for underserved communities. The collaborative efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, comprising Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key stakeholders, underscore the significance of these improvements in advancing a more inclusive and sustainable transportation network.

The proposed enhancements align closely with Bike Cleveland's mission to advocate for multi-modal transportation solutions that prioritize safety and accessibility. By facilitating low-stress options such as walking and biking, we aim to reduce reliance on vehicular travel and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Moreover, these initiatives contribute to our broader advocacy efforts to establish a comprehensive bike network throughout Greater Cleveland.

We are grateful for the opportunity to endorse these transformative projects and recognize the substantial benefits they will bring to the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio as a whole. Thank you for your consideration of our request and the positive impact that these endeavors will have on our community. Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at jacob@bikecleveland.org or by phone at 216-273-6863.

Sincerely,

Jacob VanSickle, Executive Director
Bike Cleveland



February 15, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter as enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

As the coordinating entity for the 100-mile long Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area in Cuyahoga County, projects such as this one are key to connecting our communities to the broader natural and historic world found in the OECNHA along Scenic Byway, in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and all the sites along the Towpath Trail.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland, the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, and Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mera E. Cardenas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mera E. Cardenas
Executive Director, Canalway Partners
Co-Executive Director, Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area



February 22, 2024

**The City Club
Board of Directors**

Kristen Baird Adams
President
Artis A. Arnold, III
Vice President
Louis Chaiten
Vice President
Eric Fiala
Vice President
John J. McGuire
Secretary, Vice President
Mark Ross
Vice President
Alex Schmitt
Treasurer, Vice President
Patricia Shlonsky
Vice President
Robyn Minter Smyers
Immediate Past President
Molly Walsh
Vice President

Col. Harold V. Anderson
April Miller Boise
Terry Brennan
Kevin Clayton
Robert Falls
Judi Feniger
Paul N. Harris
Kelly M. Jasko
Sharon Sobol Jordan
David M. Kall
Shana F. Marbury
Hugh McKay
August A. Napoli, Jr.
Michelle Najda
Leta Obertacz
Kaye Ridolfi
Fareed Siddiq
Nigamanth Sridhar
Charles Stack
Sheila Wright

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, thank you for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects. The impact of this funding is hard to overstate. We are all increasingly aware of the importance of access to natural green spaces. Our communities and our neighbors are becoming healthier because of this investment.

I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

The last time I wrote a letter of support to you, I noted that the Metroparks had a well-earned reputation for delivering on their promises and executing at a high level. Indeed, that reputation still holds today. If there is work to be done locally in creating spaces for access to nature, recreation, or park space, involving the Metroparks is the surest way to reach completion. We are so lucky to have them, and you and your colleagues should know that an investment with them is well placed.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at dmoulthrop@cityclub.org or 216.621.0082.

With gratitude,

Dan Moulthrop | Chief Executive Officer



February 23, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

The Cleveland Guardians value service to our community. The Cleveland Metropark's RAISE grant program aligns with the Cleveland Guardians purpose and beliefs to unite and inspire our city with the power of team. The new shared-use trails will create a connection throughout our community that will benefit our staff, fans and stakeholders alike.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at pdolan@cleguardians.com or (440) 463-4400.

Sincerely,

Paul Dolan

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer





February 21, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

The Cleveland Hiking Club provides between 500-600 hikes monthly throughout northeast Ohio and about 50% of our hikes are held in Cleveland Metro Parks. It is a great benefit to our members and others who hike with us to have these new trails to connect areas where we hike. Even though these are not natural trails being proposed, they encourage both walking and hiking. We have many sidewalk hikes and all-purpose trail hikes throughout the area. It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at sharonuhl.chc@gmail.com or 440-823-4285.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Uhl
President
The Cleveland Hiking Club



Office of the President

February 20, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

As president of Cleveland State University, a regional university with a strong access mission, it is especially important to me that we complete this Slavic Village Downtown Connector because it will enable opportunities for so many families who have been too long limited in their ability to help drive the economy of Cleveland because of infrastructure that fails to meet their needs.

I am pleased to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of



Office of the President

Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at Laura.Bloomberg@csuohio.edu.

Sincerely,

Laura Bloomberg, PhD
President, Cleveland State University



February 20, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

The Levin College of Public Affairs and Education at Cleveland State University (1) recognize that trails are a key part of broader climate resiliency, as they can increase walking and biking while reducing reliance on automobile use and (2) proudly serve students from across Northeast Ohio and beyond and many of our students are lower-income and first-generation college students. Oftentimes, our students lack the funds for personal automobile ownership and things like the cost of parking downtown can further deter on-campus learning for students of limited financial resources. Improving urban trail networks such as the Slavic Village Downtown Connector North and the Morgana Run Booth Avenue Extension will provide another transportation option for car-less students from Cleveland's near east, low-income neighborhoods, improving the accessibility of higher education for this segment of our population.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at j.a.gordon@csuohio.edu or (216) 262-3015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jill A. Gordon'.

Jill A. Gordon, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor



COMMUNITY
ASSESSMENT &
TREATMENT
SERVICES

RECOVER RECLAIM REBUILD

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

February 14, 2024

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

We are thrilled that the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension will run parallel to our property, giving our staff and clients easy access to a beautiful multi-use trail. This extension will also connect our property to the portion of Slavic Village East of the railroad tracks that run across the east side of our property, severing walking/biking access to neighborhoods East of Broadway Avenue.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at jscalish@communityassessment.org or (216) 206-5212.

Sincerely,

John M. Scalish, CEO
Community Assessment & Treatment Services



CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR NATIONAL PARK. PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

February 13, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is highly committed to making Cuyahoga Valley National Park accessible and welcoming to all residents of Northeastern Ohio as well as to those traveling from outside the region. The two projects this funding would support are crucial for connecting residents from low income communities with the national park that is so close to them. Our national park was founded almost 50 years ago as part of the “parks to the people” movement with an intent of bringing national parks closer to urban communities. Trail connections are what make this possible for many in lower income neighborhoods. This funding would assure fair and just access to many people and would help fulfill the mission of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We are grateful for planning dollars and now want to see these important projects implemented. The Conservancy fully supports the Cleveland Metroparks in this work of connecting all people in our region to trails and to the national park.

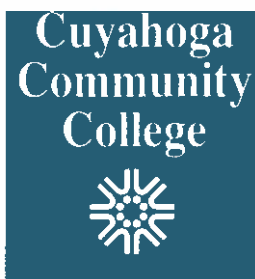
It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in North-east Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at dyandala@forcvnp.org or 440-503-4251.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Yandala". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Yandala
President & CEO
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park



February 23, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, thank you for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021. Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects.

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the RAISE grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.


Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

The Slavic Village connector will run along Broadway Ave. in Cleveland and could enhance non-car commuting for students, faculty and staff to Cuyahoga Community College's Metropolitan Campus in downtown Cleveland.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact Claire Rosacco, V.P. Government Relations and Community Outreach at (216) 987-4804.

Sincerely,


Michael A. Baston, J.D., Ed.D.
President

Office of the President

District Administrative Services

700 Carnegie Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2878

216•987•4851 FAX 216•987•4895

Cuyahoga Community College is an affirmative action / equal opportunity institution.



February 23, 2024

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

RE: Letter of Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) supports Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, for construction of shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both located in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cuyahoga SWCD's mission is to foster a healthy and resilient urban environment through soil and water conservation practices, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. Connecting Cuyahoga County residents to accessible greenspace supports this mission, especially in neighborhoods which have been historically underserved, experience persistent poverty, and where car ownership is low.

Cleveland Metroparks' proposed trail projects in the Slavic Village neighborhood will help increase resident access to trails and greenspace in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. As high priority areas within the County-Wide Greenway Plan, these trails will create more opportunities for native plants and trees, stormwater management, and other urban conservation practices, while enabling active transportation in the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration of Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE application and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at khall@cuyahogawcd.org or 216-524-6580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kristin Hall'.

Kristin Hall
Executive Director



February 23, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the destination management and marketing organization of Greater Cleveland dba Destination Cleveland, please accept this letter of support for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Destination Cleveland has one of the best jobs in the city: We help attract visitors to Cleveland, enhance their experience while here and work to shape perceptions of Cleveland in the minds of those who live outside the region. 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 Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension projects are critical to these efforts and investment in our community and is key as we continue our work to make Cleveland a destination city.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

Destination Cleveland offers its full support for this request, and we appreciate the U.S. Department of Transportation's consideration of the RAISE application for the construction of these two key shared-use trail projects. Thank you for supporting Cleveland as a destination city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hannah Belsito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Hannah Belsito
Chief Experience Officer
Destination Cleveland



1010 Euclid Avenue, Suite 300, Cleveland, OH 44115

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express Flats Forward Inc's strong support of the Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

Flats Forward is a non-profit organization representing the interests of stakeholders in the Cleveland Flats. We appreciate the benefits to the community these two key shared-use trail projects will have by making livability improvements that advance equity, access, improve public health, and mitigate climate change.

Flats Forward respectfully requests your support for this RAISE application and the benefit these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Haviland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James A. Haviland
Executive Director | Flats Forward

From: Peter Baszuk, owner of Globe Sewing Machine Co.
Member of Hyacinth Community Coalition

DATE: 02/21/24

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

Our area has been overlooked for projects that could benefit the residents. We really need help to improve the quality of life here and would greatly appreciate your help.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at: peter.baszuk@globesew.com
Sincerely,

Peter Baszuk
Resident and business owner
In north broadway neighborhood



Greater
Cleveland
Partnership

February 19, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

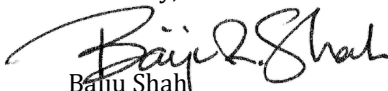
Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project and this grant will allow that design and planning to come to fruition. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholders of the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities.

These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most. Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

The Greater Cleveland Partnership is the region's chamber of commerce. The projects partners are our partners in implementing the All In Plan to be a Great Region on a Great Lake. The Cuyahoga Greenways Plan builds connections between neighborhoods, business districts and the Lake Erie and Cuyahoga River waterfronts to make a more appealing community to attract residents and businesses to the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact David Ebersole at debersole@greatercle.com or 216.592.2408.

Sincerely,


Baiju Shah
President & CEO

1240 Huron Road East
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216.621.3300

greatercle.com

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

LAND studio and the Cleveland Metroparks have a long history of working in partnership with residents, community organizations, and civic organizations to plan, building, manage and program parks and public spaces across Greater Cleveland. Your support will help build the track record of success. We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at gpeckham@land-studio.org or 216-849-8078.

Sincerely,



Gregory Peckham
Executive Director
gpeckham@land-studio.org



MEDICAL MUTUAL®

100 American Road,
Cleveland, OH 44115-1355

MedMutual.com

Gregory Young, DPM

Vice President, Government Relations

(216) 687-7651

Gregory.Young@MedMutual.com

February 13, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I very much appreciate your decision to provide funding to northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021. Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these very impactful trail projects.

As such, I am happy to be writing once again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The RAISE grant will be utilized for the construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan as they will certainly help address the transportation challenges.

My organization, Medical Mutual, is Ohio's oldest health insurance company. Many of our enrollees live in the neighborhoods that will be favorably impacted by the construction of these trails. This proposed infrastructure enhancement will encourage exercise with positive physical and mental health benefits. We all recognize the need to identify and address the social determinants of health. This project will positively impact transportation, housing, employment opportunities and so many other important factors that plague historically disadvantaged communities.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at Gregory.Young@MedMutual.com or (216) 687-7651.

Sincerely,

Gregory Young, DPM, VP, Government Relations
Medical Mutual

Monroe Tool & Mfg.

3900 East 93rd St. Cleveland, OH 44105
Ph. 216-883-7360 F. 216-883-0137
email: info@monroetoolmfg.com

February 22, 2023

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

Monroe Tool & Manufacturing Inc. is a third generation family led business that has been committed to the near east side of Cleveland for over 80 yrs. We are a high tech military and aerospace supplier. Increasing livability near our facility will help Monroe expand and offer good high tech jobs in an economically disadvantaged area.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at anne@monroetoolmfg.com or feel free to call 216-883-7360.

Sincerely,

Anne Brosnan
Controller
Monroe Tool & Mfg. Inc.



The Nature Conservancy in Ohio
6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 100
Dublin, OH 43017-5045

Office: (614) 717-2770
www.nature.org

February 19, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

With generous support from a RAISE grant in 2021 for design, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects to better connect neighborhoods. I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

TNC is an international conservation organization that seeks to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We have operated in Ohio since 1959 and helped conserve over 65,000 acres of critical lands in the state. TNC recognizes the important roles that many organizations play in conserving natural resources and works directly with public and private organizations to better manage watersheds for all Ohioans. TNC supports creation of a network of conservation and developed spaces that allow all people to thrive. These projects that will provide connections between neighborhoods, jobs, schools and greenways are critical to support people and communities.

TNC strongly supports the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners (Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies) working together to advance these projects. Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have in Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Holtshouse
Associate State Director
The Nature Conservancy, Ohio



February 13, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (District) fully supports Cleveland Metroparks' application to the *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity* (RAISE) grant program, for construction of the following shared-use trail projects: Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both of which are in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged stakeholders, including residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low rates of car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District provides progressive regional management of sewage and stormwater that protects the environment and serves our community. The District partners with organizations, institutions, and communities, getting involved with our neighborhoods, schools, and residents in an effort to keep our Great Lake great and our communities strong. The District has been a long-standing member and supporter of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partner. The establishment of the above-mentioned shared-use trail projects helps lift our region, including District staff, customers, and stakeholders, by providing vital corridors and connections to community neighborhoods, strengthening the resiliency of our region, and improving the health of our residents.

The District is pleased to support the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for Northeast Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells".

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, CEO
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District



rails-to-trails
conservancy

Midwest Regional Office
506 S. High St., Suite 8
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
614.837.6782

www.railstotrails.org
www.TrailLink.com

February 21, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First, **thank you** for funding northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021! Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to now build two of these trail projects!

So, I am happy to be writing again in support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program, this time for construction of these shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, particularly residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

As the nation's largest trail organization we have the chance to see the work across hundreds of communities nationwide. What Cleveland has already achieved is noteworthy and leading edge, this project just helps propel the active transportation network to another level. The neighborhoods that would be provided access to the trail network through this work are significant and goes a long way toward correcting the inequality of access that is a problem nationwide. Cleveland is tackling this issue head on and this project is the proof.

It's refreshing to witness the combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies, working together to advance these projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at eric@railstotrails.org or 614-837-6782.

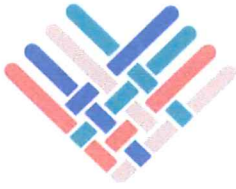
Sincerely,

Eric Oberg
Midwest Regional Director
Rails to Trails Conservancy

National Headquarters: 2121 Ward Court, NW, 5th Floor / Washington, DC 20037
tel 202.331.9696 / fax 202.223.9257

Recycled Paper





SLAVIC VILLAGE

5620 Broadway Avenue
Suite 200
Cleveland, OH 44127

P 216 429 1182
F 216 429 2632

February 8, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

For decades, Slavic Village Development has worked alongside the project partners and key agencies to ensure resident-led priorities are embedded in the work, from

Cleveland's first Complete and Green Street, Fleet Avenue, to Ohio's first rails-to-trails project, Morgana Run Trail. We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts and enthusiastically support Cleveland Metroparks' application to the RAISE grant program build the infrastructure for a healthier, sustainable and active community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at ShaunaS@slavicvillage.org or (216) 429-1182 ext. 128.

Sincerely,



Shauna Player Sanders
Executive Director, Slavic Village Development

Third Federal FOUNDATION

February 13, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

Third Federal Savings & Loan has been committed to the Slavic Village neighborhood for 85 years. In 1998, at a time when many others were disinvesting, the company invested in a new \$20 million corporate center. The Third Federal Foundation was created in 2007, donating millions of dollars to the area to support educational, housing, and basic needs. We welcome and encourage additional investment into this neighborhood and offer our support and partnership.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at Emily.thome@thirdfederal.com or 216-429-5412.

Sincerely,



Emily Thome
President and Executive Director
Third Federal Foundation

February 15, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

First and foremost, on behalf of our entire organization, I want to thank you for your leadership and funding support of Northeast Ohio with a RAISE grant in 2021. Because of that design funding, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and partners are ready to start building two of the trail projects.

I am happy to be writing in support of Cleveland Metroparks' 2024 application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the construction of shared-use trail projects: the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North, and the Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension, both in the City of Cleveland.

Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners have actively engaged key stakeholders, including, and most importantly, residents of the surrounding low-income neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods are identified as areas of persistent poverty with low car ownership. Yet, these areas are dense with job centers, schools, civic assets, and transit, which makes these projects high priorities within the larger Cuyahoga County-Wide Greenway Plan for enabling active transportation.

Our history in the Slavic Village neighborhood, goes back nearly 90 years. We regularly work with non-profits and neighborhood programs to sustain and develop new opportunities for those in core neighborhoods like Slavic Village. And we are seeing results. Families, and young homeowners are moving in and are looking for new ways to connect. Support on important projects like these will go a long way to giving those who work and want to live in Slavic Village and surrounding neighborhoods, another reason to be proud to do so.

The combined efforts of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies are working together to advance these projects and we are proud to support their efforts.



Thank you for your consideration of this request and the positive impact these projects will have for us here in Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at, Sharon.Posner@thirdfederal.com or 216-429-5014.

Sincerely



Sharon Posner
Third Federal Saving & Loan



February 22, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

This collaborative effort presents an invaluable opportunity for both our organization and the community we serve. By extending the trail, we can enhance access to green spaces, promote active lifestyles, and foster a stronger sense of community connectivity. Additionally, the trail extension aligns with our shared mission of improving the quality of life within the Union Miles neighborhood by providing residents with safe and accessible recreational opportunities. We look forward to partnering with the Cleveland Metroparks to bring this project to fruition and create lasting benefits for our organization and the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at roshawns@unionmiles.org 216-341-0757

Sincerely,

Roshawn Sample
Executive Director



P.O. Box 110416
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

216-755-4061
Cleveland@uli.org

Cleveland.uli.org

Paul Beegan
Beegan Architectural Design, LLC
District Council Chair

Anthony Whitfield
Milestone Partners
Chair of Mission Advancement

Cathryn Greenwald
Thompson Hine LLP
Governance Committee Chair

Elissa Hurtuk
Huntington Bank
Treasurer

Rachael Price
GBX Group LLC
Young Leader Co-Chair

Nora Walsh
Project Management Consultants
Young Leader Co-Chair

Gerald Parks
Young Leader Vice Chair

Jack Newton
GBX Group
Program Committee Co-Chair

Peter Zahirsky
Team NEO
Program Committee Co-Chair

Erin Ryan
Rycon Construction Inc.
Women's Leadership Initiative Co-Chair

Liana Lake
Arkinetics Inc.
Women's Leadership Initiative Co-Chair

Adam Saurwein
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP
Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Tyrone Patillo
The Robert Weiler Company
Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Tammy Polenz
THP Limited, Inc.
Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Melanie Kortyka
ULI Cleveland
Executive Director

February 23, 2024

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

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me at Cleveland@uli.org or 216-755-4061.

Sincerely,

Melanie Kortyka
Executive Director
Urban Land Institute
Cleveland District Council



February 8, 2024

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

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

Office Location
7381 Camelot Drive
Parma, OH 44134

www.westcreek.org

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks' RAISE Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension Construction Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of Cleveland Metroparks' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for construction of two key shared-use trail projects, the Slavic Village Downtown Connector – North and Morgana Run/Booth Avenue Extension in the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Design of the projects in this application was funded through a 2021 RAISE award for the Cleveland Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning project. Cleveland Metroparks and the City of Cleveland continue to work with key stakeholder agencies, community development corporations, and most importantly the surrounding neighborhoods to advance design of these two projects, which will safely connect residents in areas of persistent poverty to job centers, schools, civic assets, transit, and other opportunities. These shared-use paths are important for our region and are priorities in our county-wide Cuyahoga Greenways Plan as they advance connections for transportation options for residents who need it most.

Submission of this RAISE application builds on the combined effort of the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners, which includes Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and other key agencies. Since 2014, the Cuyahoga Greenway Partners has been working to build out this useful and accessible transportation network.

We appreciate the support and benefits our organization and community receive through these collaborative efforts. Cleveland Metroparks has continuously proven to be a catalytic engine across Cuyahoga County and the Greater Cleveland area and this proposal further exemplifies their progressive approach to create a sustainable and resilient community through highly effective multimodal transportation investments.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and the impact these projects will have on the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact me dschafer@westcreek.org or 440-915-2940.

Cheers,

Derek Schafer, Executive Director
West Creek Conservancy