



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

representing Clifton Heights | University Heights | Fairview

March 11, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express general support by the **CUF (Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview) Neighborhood Association** for the INFRA application submitted jointly by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County for the replacement of the Western Hills Viaduct. At our May 1, 2018 Meeting, the CUFNA Board of Trustees passed a motion to support the City of Cincinnati's Application to pursue BUILD Grant Funds with the caveat that "no Residences located in the CUF Neighborhood be demolished in the Viaduct's replacement". (See attachment)

The project will replace a "structural deficit" double-deck bridge that carries 55,000 vehicles a day over the Mill Creek and a large, active railyard owned by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads. The viaduct connects directly to Interstate 75. More than 23,000 vehicles per day use the viaduct to connect to I-75. The Viaduct also carries County Route 457 over the Mill Creek Valley, which connects to State Street on the west end and Spring Grove Avenue on the east end.

Replacing this 89-year-old span is critical to ensuring continued growth in our region and access for everyone in our community.

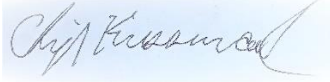
Specifically, the project will:

- Replace an existing viaduct built in 1932, which is rated "structurally deficient and functionally obsolete" with a new long-span bridge over the existing railyard
- Significantly improve various transportation connections, including the interchange with I-75
- Add bicycle and pedestrian facilities from Harrison and Westwood avenues to Central Parkway and McMillan Street, making the new bridge the safest path to access major employment centers without driving
- More efficiently and equitably connect residents from the west side of Cincinnati to educational, cultural, and medical centers in the Downtown and Uptown areas, which includes the University of Cincinnati and many of our regional hospitals

The INFRA grant is vital to ensuring that this important regional asset continues to serve the communities of western Cincinnati as a primary means for transporting people and goods.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and investment in projects like the Western Hills Viaduct, which help improve the vibrancy and economic prosperity for everyone in our metropolitan region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chip Kussmaul", is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Chip Kussmaul
President CUFNA



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May 31, 2018

Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support – Western Hills Viaduct application for BUILD funds

Dear Ms. Chao,

The Clifton Heights University Heights Fairview (CUF) community sits at the eastern terminus of the Western Hills Viaduct. This roadway is a major artery for those coming to or through CUF. It is currently in need of replacement.

The CUF Neighborhood Association has been participating in a group of stakeholders interested in finding a solution to this situation. We understand that Build grant funding may be available.

At our May 1, 2018 meeting, the board of trustees passed a motion to support the City of Cincinnati's application to pursue BUILD grant funds with the caveat that no residences in CUF be demolished in the viaduct replacement. Although we recognize the importance of the viaduct, we are opposed to the destruction of residential areas to support automobile traffic. [That mentality has been used too often to build highways to the detriment of citizens in this city; for example, I-75 through the West End, I-74 through Northside, etc.]

We remain committed to helping find an appropriate solution.

Sincerely,

Linda Ziegler, President,
CUF Neighborhood Association

Cc: Henry Frondorf, Western Hills Viaduct Coalition
Greg Landsman, City Council
Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County
Catherine Ingram, State of Ohio
Lou Terhar, State of Ohio
Brian Griffith, Steve Chabot's office