



October 6, 2022

Faith Hall
Grant Lead, Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for the 2022 RCP Program: Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study, (Milwaukee, WI)

Dear Faith Hall:

I am writing in support of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program. WisDOT and the City of Milwaukee are hoping to reconstruct Wis 175, known locally as the Stadium Freeway, which continues to negatively impact the surrounding neighborhoods. It is also the first time in recent decades that WisDOT has reconsidered an urban highway, which is something that our organization strongly supports.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin does not often align with WisDOT, occasionally finding ourselves on the opposite side of court battles, but we agree on the merits of this feasibility study. This study will be a positive step for WisDOT, which so often prioritizes highway expansion above all else. We applaud WisDOT for this project, which will focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety, economic development, equity, climate and sustainability.

This project is a slam dunk, one that will support and engage economically disadvantaged and traditionally underserved communities to increase affordable, accessible, and multimodal access to daily destinations. Reimagining the Stadium Freeway is supported by the surrounding neighborhoods, elected officials, and many grassroots organizations across the state.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin proudly endorses WisDOT's application for the funding of Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study. Please give this funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at gregg@1kfriends.org or by phone at 402-707-7379.

Sincerely,

Gregg May
Transportation Policy Director
1000 Friends of Wisconsin