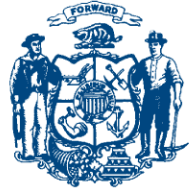




STATE REPRESENTATIVE
18th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



October 3, 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 write in support of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) applications for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program (RCP). The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study.

When I drive, bike, or walk on, over, or under Wisconsin Highway 175 I see so much more potential than is there today. This feasibility study would look at roughly 1.5 miles of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue on the south to Lisbon Avenue on the north. I have the honor of representing neighborhoods on all sides of WIS 175 and the highway has a substantial impact on the lives of all 50,000 plus nearby residents.

I am proud of the USDOT and the Biden-Harris Administration's leadership, policies, and priorities to ensure our infrastructure network is best positioned for everyone. This includes reimagining urban highway projects like WIS 175.

If awarded funding, the WisDOT study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability through community-supported planning activities. The project will support and engage economically disadvantaged and traditionally underserved communities to increase affordable, accessible, and multimodal access to daily destinations.

WIS 175 is a remnant of a larger freeway plan that never fully materialized and poses safety and operational issues through high crash rates and peak hour delays; mobility issues for local traffic, bicycles, pedestrians; and creates a barrier to business connectivity and other everyday destinations. The study is a partnership between various agencies and advocacy groups to further evaluate, incorporate comprehensive engagement input, and create innovative alternatives that blend the needs of all parties and modes of transportation, and to develop a land use strategy that spurs economic development of the region.

This opportunity is needed in my community and would not be possible without the initiatives of USDOT. I commend you and your colleagues for recognizing the needs of communities impacted by infrastructure decisions made generations ago. The needs are immense, and there are multiple governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations working together towards a better-connected Milwaukee. WisDOT, the Menomonee Valley Partners, and the Housing Authority of Milwaukee are aware and supportive of one another's applications.

The truth is Milwaukee is one of the most racially and economically segregated cities in America. WIS 175 is a divider of race and class in Milwaukee. Largely African American neighborhoods with lower economic mobility sit on the east and north of the highway, while predominately more affluent white neighborhoods sit to the west. I believe reimagining WIS 175 could make positive impacts to better connect and integrate these neighborhoods currently divided.

I support WisDOT's application for the funding of Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 RCP funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Goyke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

State Representative Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District