



## WIS 175 Letters of Support

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- [Wisconsin Bike Federation](#)



August 2, 2022

Bob Gutierrez  
Southeast Region Director  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
141 NW Barstow St.  
Waukesha, WI 53187-0798

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee are committed to building upon transportation infrastructure and investment coordinated with land use planning to support connectivity and mobility, focusing on underserved residents, and supporting our local commitments to equity and social justice initiatives. We work collaboratively to identify and address policies, practices, and power structures that, whether intentionally or unintentionally, create barriers for black, brown, and indigenous people.

We value the partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to reimagine Wisconsin Highway 175 (WIS 175) between West Wisconsin Avenue and West Lisbon Avenue in the City of Milwaukee. Ultimately, the County and City view the WIS 175 study as a generational opportunity to reconnect communities that have been divided by the highway, that allows residents to travel safely using multimodal options, and enhance economic and commercial value.

Communication and a formalized project management and decision-making structure between Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee and WisDOT are essential to the success and implementation of the WIS 175 study. As a result, our agencies must practice regular, open, non-assumptive, listening-based communication in order to have a foundation of respect and collaboration.

Equally important is creating a structure to enable our partners and stakeholders to understand our respective roles, responsibilities, and expectations. As an initial outline, we respectfully request a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with respect to WisDOT and their consultant's scope of work and how Milwaukee County and City of Milwaukee can complement that work with local knowledge, expertise, and guidance. As the consultant will conduct a majority of the work, it will be important to establish clear expectations from the outset. In addition, to reflect the true partnership between the State, County, and City on this effort, the County and City would sincerely appreciate a proportionate voting share in determining the consultant for the project and a shared decision-making structure that continues throughout this project.

As you are aware, Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee are deeply invested in the success of the WIS 175 study and dedicated in collaborating with WisDOT as it progresses in development. We are confident that linking transportation investment and land use planning will enhance and facilitate inclusion throughout the city, county, and Southeastern Wisconsin.



The County and City sincerely appreciate the State's partnership on this critical project. In order to facilitate timely action, the County and City hope to meet with WisDOT to discuss developing the MOU that will guide our ongoing collaborative partnership on this project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Donna Brown-Martin*

Donna Brown-Martin

Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation

*Lafayette L. Crump*

Lafayette L. Crump

Commissioner, City of Milwaukee Department of City Development

*Jerrel Kruschke*

Jerrel Kruschke

Interim Commissioner, City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**DAVID CROWLEY**

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 11, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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. It 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. The study will blend the needs of all parties and modes of transportation, and to develop a land use strategy that spurs economic development of the region.

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. WisDOT, Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee and multiple stakeholders





OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**DAVID CROWLEY**

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

are aware and supportive of one another's applications. Funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers.

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.

Sincerely,

David C. Crowley  
County Executive



**Cavalier Johnson**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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October 7, 2022

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

Dear Ms. 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 city residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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. WIS 175, in its current configuration as a stub end, divides neighborhoods and residents, separating them from opportunity, services, and amenities. It poses safety and operational issues through high crash rates; mobility issues for local traffic, bicycles, pedestrians; and creates a barrier to commercial connectivity and other everyday destinations. The City of Milwaukee will be a key partner in this study to lead comprehensive engagement input and to create and evaluate innovative alternatives. Reimagining WIS 175 will connect Washington Park to the surrounding neighborhoods. It will unlock economic value and it will reconnect neighborhoods, providing opportunities for multimodal transportation, not just for cars.

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. WisDOT, Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee and multiple stakeholders are aware and supportive of one another's applications. Funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers. The City of Milwaukee fully supports WisDOT's application for the funding of Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study. Please give this 2022 RCP funding proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cavalier Johnson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Cavalier Johnson  
Mayor

# SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE • PO BOX 1607 • WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1607 •

TELEPHONE (262) 547-6721  
FAX (262) 547-1103

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October 10, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Hall:

On behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), I am writing in support of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) application for Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program funding for the proposed Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study. This study will evaluate options for reconnecting communities that are currently impacted by the segment of STH 175 between W. Wisconsin Avenue and W. Lisbon Avenue in the City of Milwaukee.

STH 175 between W. Wisconsin Avenue and W. Lisbon Avenue is an approximately 1.5-mile segment of freeway that originally was intended to be part of a larger system of freeways in the Milwaukee urbanized area. This larger system of freeways was never completed, resulting in the current STH 175 “stub” freeway segment that does not function as originally intended. The STH 175 freeway segment currently experiences safety and operational issues, as exhibited by high crash rates, and it does not support transit, bicycle, or pedestrian modes of travel. Finally, the STH 175 freeway segment negatively affects the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents that live within one mile of the freeway segment—the freeway inhibits multimodal travel and economic development for these residents.

The proposed study, jointly sponsored by WisDOT, Milwaukee County, and the City of Milwaukee, will examine options for transforming the STH 175 freeway segment into a new transportation corridor that would improve safety, support transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes of transportation, and that would reconnect the neighborhoods on either side of the corridor and spur economic development and new housing. More specifically, the study will focus on the core areas of safety, economic strength, equity, and climate and sustainability. The study will conduct community-supported planning activities and will seek to support and engage economically disadvantaged and traditionally underserved communities. The study will also engage various advocacy groups and government agencies in the development and evaluation of innovative alternatives that consider the needs of all parties and modes of transportation and include land use development strategies that encourage economic development.

The proposed study is consistent with key recommendations of VISION 2050, Southeastern Wisconsin's long-range land use and transportation plan. More specifically, VISION 2050 recommends significantly improving and expanding public transit in the Region, implementing “transit-first” and “complete street” designs on urban streets, enhancing safety on streets and highways, expanding the on-street and off-street

Ms. Faith Hall  
October 10, 2022  
Page 2

bicycle network and implementing enhanced bicycle facilities in key corridors, and providing safe, efficient, and accessible pedestrian facilities. In addition, a number of the VISION 2050 land use recommendations would be assisted by a multimodal investment in this corridor, including recommendations to invest in already-developed areas to preserve primary environmental corridors and productive agricultural land, maximize the economic vitality of the Region, strengthen and grow mixed-use and mixed-income neighborhoods, and enable efficient provision of municipal services.

WisDOT's application for RCP funding represents a strong partnership between the Federal government and the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, and the City of Milwaukee. We ask the U.S. Department of Transportation to carefully consider this project and the benefits it will provide to the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, and Southeastern Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Muhs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP  
Executive Director

KJM/CTH/ESJ/esj/cp  
#265193 v2 – WisDOT 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Grant Application – Letter of Support

cc: Mr. Craig Thompson, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Ms. Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation  
Mr. Jerrel Kruschke, Interim Commissioner of Public Works, City of Milwaukee



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR  
**TIM CARPENTER**  
SENATOR – 3RD DISTRICT

State Capitol • PO Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Phone: (608) 266-8535

October 10, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities harmed by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR  
**TIM CARPENTER**  
SENATOR – 3RD DISTRICT

State Capitol • PO Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Phone: (608) 266-8535

parties and modes of transportation, and to develop a land use strategy that spurs economic development of the region.

This project potentially fits into the broader economic development goals for our region. Questions worth asking include: How can we make sure it aligns in spirit with our goals for redevelopment in the area and our efforts to clean up brownfields? What would be the result of providing tax incentives for redevelopment, planting trees, and expanding bicycle infrastructure?

I commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. The needs are immense. The original design for WIS 175 turned out to be a costly mistake, but it is one we can correct. Through proper analysis we can start the clock on bringing this roadway into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. If we do so, and do it right, communities will reconnect, truck routes will make more sense, our streets will be safer with less speeding, land will return to productive use, and long term costs will decrease.

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. I may be reached at 608-266-8535.

Sincerely,

Tim Carpenter

Wisconsin State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



# STATE SENATOR LaTonya Johnson

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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)

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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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

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Indeed, funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in



the country.

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. I may be reached at [Sen.Johnson@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Johnson@legis.wisconsin.gov).

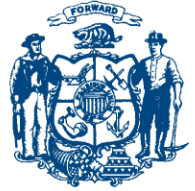
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LaTonya Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

LaTonya Johnson  
State Senator  
6<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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  
18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network

September 26, 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 Ms. 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities harmed by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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.

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We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. 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. Indeed, funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in the country.

Employ Milwaukee is an Equal Opportunity employer and service provider. If you need this information or printed material in an alternate format, or in different language, please contact us at (414)-270-1700. Deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired callers can contact us through Wisconsin Relay Service at 7-1-1.

2342 North 27th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53210  
Phone: (414) 270-1700  
Wisconsin Relay: 7-1-1  
[employmilwaukee.org](https://employmilwaukee.org)

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. I may be reached at [Chytania.brown@employmilwaukee.org](mailto:Chytania.brown@employmilwaukee.org) or 414.270.1700.

Sincerely,



Chytania Brown  
President and CEO  
Employ Milwaukee, Inc.





September 26, 2022

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

PO Box 235  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

414.931.1121

bublr bikes.org

Bruce Keyes  
Chairman  
Foley & Lardner

Rese Schneider  
President  
Discovery World

Barry Mainwood  
Vice President  
Clum Creative

Tonieh Welland  
Secretary

Angela Sprau  
Treasurer

Mike Amsden  
City of Milwaukee, DPW

Noel Kegel  
Wheel & Sprocket

Jen Ferguson  
City of Wauwatosa

Eugene Manzanet  
Scaling Wellness in MKE

John Miller  
Arenberg Holdings LLC

Bob Monnat  
Mandel Group

Kenge Adams  
Connect Business Consulting

David Diamond, PT, MPT  
Orthopaedic Hospital of  
Wisconsin

Jay Burseth  
Wisconsin Center for  
Investigative Journalism

Diane Raines  
Milwaukee Metropolitan  
Sewerage District

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Bublr Bikes supports 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. I may be reached at 262-880-7815 or by email at [james@bublrbikes.org](mailto:james@bublrbikes.org)

Sincerely,

James Davies  
Executive Director  
Bublr Bikes

September 28, 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)

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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. I may be reached at 414-344-6575-222.

Sincerely,

Lo Neng Kiatoukaysy  
Executive Director  
Hmong American Friendship Assn Inc.



## Milwaukee County Transit System

1942 North 17th Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin • 53205-1697

(414) 344-4550 • RideMCTS.com

September 30, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue.

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. Funding this proposal would have a great impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in the country.

Specifically, this study will examine replacing most of the freeway spur with a boulevard from State St. to North Ave. According to Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, this conversion would reconnect the communities that were cut off from each other when the freeway was built. It would also offer new opportunities for the Milwaukee County Transit System to design bus routes to serve residents and businesses in these neighborhoods. Finally, this study is well aligned with Milwaukee County's vision to advance racial equity and thus become the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

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 "Denise Wandke".

Denise Wandke  
Interim Managing Director  
Milwaukee County Transit System





October 4, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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. It 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. The study will blend the needs of all parties and modes of transportation, and to develop a land use strategy that spurs economic development of the region.

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. WisDOT, Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee and multiple stakeholders are aware and supportive of one another's applications. Funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers.

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.

Sincerely,

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

Keith Stanley  
Executive Director



3940 West Lisbon Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208 | Phone: 414-344-1818 | Fax: 414-344-2489

October 5, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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.

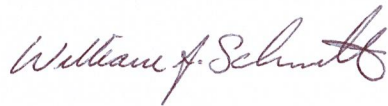
WIS 175 is a remnant of a larger freeway plan that never fully materialized. It poses safety and operational issues through high crash rates and peak hour delays; mobility issues for local traffic, bicycles, pedestrians; and creates a barrier to business-connectivity and other everyday destinations.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

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. WisDOT, Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee and multiple stakeholders are aware and

supportive of one another's applications. Funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers.

As the Executive Director of an anchor institution and a community-serving nonprofit with a longtime commitment to the residents of the Washington Park neighborhood, we look forward with anticipation to the reimagining of Highway 175 and the many ways in which that can potentially lead to a more just, equitable and prosperous future for all of the families that live in this community. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William F. Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" at the end.

William Schmitt  
Executive Director  
[william.schmitt@umcs-wi.org](mailto:william.schmitt@umcs-wi.org)  
United Methodist Children's Services  
3940 W. Lisbon Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Oct. 7, 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 Ms. Hall:

I am writing on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation (ACLU-WI). We support 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. The ACLU-WI is deeply involved in working for racial justice – including, for at least the past two decades, environmental justice and transportation equity. In that vein, the ACLU-WI has long advocated against urban highways that have divided and burdened inner-city Milwaukee. RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnecting communities in Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue.

Highway 175 is a remnant of a larger highway 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. It also creates a physical barrier that hampers cultural, business, and everyday connectivity for the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

This barrier enables, if not exacerbates, racial segregation in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee-Waukesha area is the second-most segregated metropolitan area in the country,<sup>1</sup> and the neighborhoods on the northern border of 175 reflect that intense segregation. For example, 71% of the residents of the Washington Park neighborhood are Black and 17% are Asian, and 52% of the residents of the Walnut Hill neighborhood are Black and 34% are Asian. White residents make up only four percent and two percent, respectively, of the populations of these neighborhoods. Yet directly across 175 from those two neighborhoods, sits Washington Heights, a neighborhood that is 65% white.<sup>2</sup> The map below graphically illustrates that segregation.<sup>3</sup>

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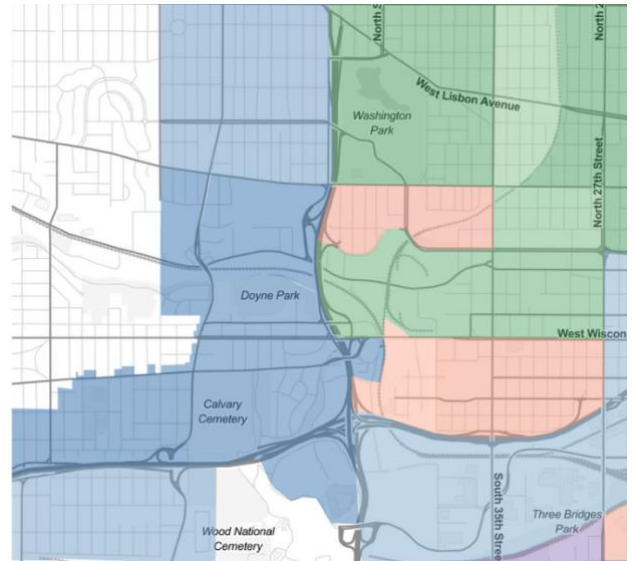
<sup>1</sup> John Johnson, *Neighborhoods Where Milwaukee Isn't Segregated*, Feb. 9, 2022, <https://law.marquette.edu/facultyblog/2022/02/neighborhoods-where-milwaukee-isnt-segregated/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*



The Feasibility Study aims to reconnect these communities harmed by transportation infrastructure, and thereby benefit the communities of color east of 175. We also believe the study needs to evaluate and ensure some form of community benefit agreement for these communities. This all clearly aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities, as well as with USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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. 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.



Majority Black neighborhoods are shaded green, majority white shaded blue, majority Latinx shaded purple, and least segregated neighborhood shaded orange.

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. 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. Indeed, funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in the country.

We also support WisDOT's application for the funding of Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study and looks forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 RCP funding proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Merkwae  
Advocacy Director  
ACLU of Wisconsin  
[amerkwae@aclu-wi.org](mailto:amerkwae@aclu-wi.org)



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](mailto:gregg@1kfriends.org) or by phone at 402-707-7379.

Sincerely,

Gregg May  
Transportation Policy Director  
1000 Friends of Wisconsin

On behalf of supporter



# **Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin**

PO Box 80499 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

Phone : (414) 933-0064



October 7, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

The project aligns to the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program by reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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. It 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. The study will blend the needs of all parties and modes of transportation, and to develop a land use strategy that spurs economic development of the region.

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. WisDOT, Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee and multiple stakeholders are aware and supportive of one another's applications. Funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers.

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.

Sincerely,

Patricia McManus, RN, PhD  
President & CEO



October 10, 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 Ms. Hall:

We are writing on behalf of the Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICA H) to support 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. MICA H is a non-profit association of inner-city congregations with a faith commitment to social justice. Its work includes an effort to connect its congregation and community members—mostly people of color—and enable them to access employment. In that vein, MICA H has long advocated against urban highways that have divided and burdened inner-city Milwaukee. RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnecting communities in Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue.

Highway 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. It also creates a physical barrier that hampers cultural, business, and everyday connectivity for the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

This barrier enables, if not exacerbates, racial segregation in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee-Waukesha area is the second-most segregated metropolitan area in the country,<sup>1</sup> and the neighborhoods on the northern border of 175 reflect that intense segregation. For example, white residents make up only four percent of the population of the Washington Park neighborhood and two percent of the population of the Walnut Hill neighborhood, while, directly across 175 from those two neighborhoods, sits Washington Heights, a neighborhood that is 65% white.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John Johnson, *Neighborhoods Where Milwaukee Isn't Segregated*, Feb. 9, 2022, <https://law.marquette.edu/facultyblog/2022/02/neighborhoods-where-milwaukee-isnt-segregated/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*





The Feasibility Study aims to reconnect these communities harmed by transportation infrastructure, and thereby benefit the predominantly Black communities directly to the East of 175. This aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration's policies and priorities as well as to USDOT's strategic goals for the RCP program. The study will focus on safety, economic strength, equity, climate and sustainability, transformation, and organizational excellence and is seeking funds to conduct 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. 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.

We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. 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. Indeed, funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in the country.

We also support WisDOT's application for the funding of Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study and looks forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 RCP funding proposal your full consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 414.614.3675/ [lisa@micahmke.org](mailto:lisa@micahmke.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Jones'.

Lisa Jones  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lester Williams'.

Lester Williams  
Chair, MICA H Transportation Task Force



September 26, 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:

On behalf of Community Relations-Social Development Commission, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

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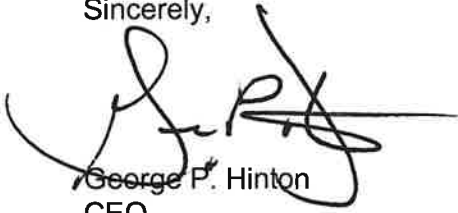
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We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. The needs are immense, and there are multiple governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations working together towards a better-connected Milwaukee. WisDOT, the Menomonee Valley Partners, and the Housing Authority of Milwaukee are aware and supportive of one another's applications. Indeed, funding these proposals would make an even greater impact

towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in the country.

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. I may be reached at [ghinton@cr-sdc.org](mailto:ghinton@cr-sdc.org) or at telephone 414-906-2723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. P. Hinton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George P. Hinton  
CEO

Community Relations-Social Development Commission



## UPTOWN CROSSING

October 11, 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:

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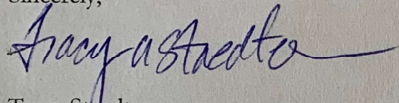
WIS 175 is a remnant of a larger freeway plan that never fully materialized. It poses safety issues through reckless driving and speeding; mobility issues for local traffic, bicycles, pedestrians; and creates a barrier to business-connectivity and other everyday destinations. The study is a partnership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



We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. WisDOT, Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee and multiple stakeholders are aware and supportive of one another's applications. Funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing physical and socioeconomic barriers.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tracy Staedter", with a stylized, flowing script.

Tracy Staedter  
Executive Director  
Uptown Crossing BID #16



October 11, 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. The RCP funding would facilitate the Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study to evaluate options for reconnection of communities in the City of Milwaukee that are currently divided by the 1.5-mile stretch of WIS 175 from Wisconsin Avenue to Lisbon Avenue. The highway has a substantial impact on the 19 surrounding neighborhoods and the nearly 51,000 residents located within one mile of the project corridor.

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We commend USDOT for recognizing the need to reconnect communities by reimagining transportation facilities. 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. Indeed, funding these proposals would make an even greater impact towards removing

physical and socioeconomic barriers within the City of Milwaukee, which is one of the most racially segregated cities in the country.

As both a project neighbor, and Executive Director of an organization promoting transportation equity, I support WisDOT's application for the funding of Reconnecting Milwaukee – Reimagining WIS 175 Feasibility Study. I 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. I may be reached at 414-253-3154.

Sincerely,

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

Kirsten Finn  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Bike Fed