



City of Cleveland  
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

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Office of the Mayor  
Cleveland City Hall  
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 202  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
216.664.3990 • Fax: 216.664.2815  
[www.clevelandohio.gov](http://www.clevelandohio.gov)

July 9, 2021

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

RE: Letter of Support for the 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant: Midtown-Hough Connector Project (Cleveland, Ohio)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the City of Cleveland's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. Funding for this project would help revitalize and transform the East 66<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, a one mile connection between the Hough and Midtown neighborhoods, improve access to anchor institutions, and enable a more than two million square foot development hub for sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic development and job creation.

Community partners, residents, and the City of Cleveland worked to improve the East 66<sup>th</sup> corridor with Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) support from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), a USDOT designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO). A range of best practices were considered and then balanced with the community's priorities to enhance the safety, equity, walkability, environmental and economic health of the area. The Project will connect the neighborhoods north to south from Superior Avenue through the League Park District and south to Euclid Avenue. These improvements were co-designed by neighborhood residents and youth during an intensive community engagement process.

East 66<sup>th</sup> is one of the first streets to develop north to south and its improvement would catalyze neighborhood development across the city. The goal is to create significant local and regional impact with a new standard

typology for neighborhood street design that employs advances in technology, construction of materials, and maintenance practices, improves safety and accessibility, and addresses community history and heritage through a resident-driven and community-responsive process.

Improvements funded by the RAISE grant will support the engineering and construction of the Midtown-Hough Connector. In line with the Biden-Harris Administration's policies to focus on equity in federal infrastructure investments, the project will improve access for underrepresented and underserved communities and provide better connections to key destinations and employment opportunities. The scope of this project will catalyze long-term, multigenerational social and economic development to enhance and transform the lives of Cleveland residents.

The Midtown-Hough Connector Project has gained momentum in the last few years with major commitments from organizations to move into and invest in these neighborhoods. This type of strategic public/private collaboration among corporations, neighborhood residents, and community revitalization partners directly benefits neighborhoods and is critical to continuing the growth and development of Cleveland.

For these reasons, the City of Cleveland is submitting the Midtown-Hough Connector Project for consideration for RAISE grant funding. Contingent upon the awarding of RAISE grant funding to the project, the City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Foundation, and other local partners are committed to providing cash cost share contributions to cover twenty percent (20%) of the total allowable project costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment or if you require additional question, please contact Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Communications, Government & International Affairs at [vmccall@clevelandohio.gov](mailto:vmccall@clevelandohio.gov), 216.664.3544 (o) or 216.857.7360 (m).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank G. Jackson', is written over the printed name.

Frank G. Jackson,  
Mayor