

Table of Contents

Project Team

The City of Cleveland	1-2
The Cleveland Foundation	3-4
MidTown Cleveland, Inc.	5-6
NOACA	7-8

Governmental Stakeholder

Councilman Basheer Jones	9-10
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Residential Stakeholders

Carolyn Watts Allen, Esq.....	11-12
Hough Community Land Trust	13
Mansfield Frazier	14
East 66 th Street Residents.....	15-16

Non-Profit Stakeholders

Baseball Heritage Museum	17
DigitalC.....	18
Dunham Tavern Museum.....	19
Growth Opportunity Partners.....	20
JumpStart	21
MAGNET.....	22
UH Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital.....	23

Business Stakeholders

Bialosky	24
Cleveland HeartLab	25
Cumberland Development, LLC.....	26
Dave’s Markets	27
DealerTire	28
Eagle Foods.....	29
Frontline Development Group, LLC.....	30
Gallucci’s Italian Foods	31
Hemingway Development LLC	32
Tru by Hilton.....	33
MCPc	34
OHM	35
Pierre’s Ice Cream Company	36
Radio One	37-38
Tech Elevator	39
Wexford Science & Technology.....	40-41



City of Cleveland
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

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Cleveland City Hall
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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 66th 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 66th 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 66th 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, 216.664.3544 (o) or 216.857.7360 (m).

Sincerely,



Frank G. Jackson,
Mayor



July 2, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
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

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. RAISE funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one-mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The project will strengthen the connection between the MidTown and Hough neighborhoods, improve access to anchor institutions, and enable a two million square-foot development hub that will spur sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic development and job creation opportunities.

In 2019, the Cleveland Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the relocation of its headquarters from downtown Cleveland to MidTown, locating and investing in a historically redlined neighborhood on the northeast corner of East 66th Street and Euclid Avenue. This move to MidTown helps to catalyze more than \$400 million in related projects and empowers the foundation to stay proximate to the residents and neighborhoods in which it serves in partnership with donors, nonprofit organizations, and the community. With partners, it is developing key amenities to enhance the quality of place for residents, workers, and visitors. The vision includes expanding greenspace in the neighborhood; the creation of an innovation district that builds on the community's strength and drives equitable economic growth that will benefit residents of all backgrounds and skill levels; and the reimagining of E. 66th Street that has been designed by Hough residents and youth alike to connect the city from the north to the south, from Superior to Euclid Avenues.

Stewardship of resource and place is a core value of the foundation and is the center of its origin story. Its strategy involves far more than just a new headquarters building – it seeks to create a shared sense of place with residents and community partners. With placekeeping as the driving force behind its move to MidTown, the foundation believes the resulting civic and innovation district will unite Cleveland into one contiguous city that benefits residents in every neighborhood, especially those that have been historically marginalized.

To date, the foundation has committed more than \$50 million to further advance the vision for more sustainable and equitable developments in the neighborhood, including:

- Providing funding to update the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) plan to reimagine and improve the East 66th corridor with a resident-driven approach to neighborhood street design. This inclusive approach tears down barriers to opportunity, advances racial equity, and addresses environmental injustice. The resulting TLCI plan is the basis for the proposed MidTown-Hough Connector Project.
- Welcoming the people of Greater Cleveland to come together, work together and celebrate together. Our new 55,000 square-foot headquarters is designed by one of the nation's leading Black, female architects, Pascale Sablan, to enhance community access. The entire first floor will be accessible to the community. Moving to MidTown Cleveland is the first step toward creating a catalytic heart at the center of the Health-Tech Corridor – a district built around a vision for a vibrant, innovative, and equitable community that benefits everyone.

- Acquiring eleven acres of land and ridding it of environmental contamination to build a two million square-foot new “Innovation Community” along the East 66th Street corridor is the next step. Racial equity and economic opportunity are core values of this Innovation Community, with educational training, and entrepreneurship programs to prepare residents for high-quality jobs close to home. The MidTown-Hough Connector Project will improve neighborhood safety and access to this collaborative and inclusive Innovation Community.
- Demonstrating an advanced stage of project readiness, the Cleveland Foundation and City of Cleveland are jointly funding the Preliminary Engineering Phase of the MidTown-Hough Connector Project. Led by Osborn Engineering, with the continued involvement of neighborhood residents, this phase will transfer the community-led streetscape design into engineering and construction.
- Establishing the Hough Community Land Trust, a nonprofit organization designed to buy and lease land to developers after negotiating community benefit agreements. A central component to the MidTown-Hough Connector Project’s economic competitiveness, the land trust builds wealth for community residents by ensuring long-term real-estate affordability and supporting racially and economically inclusive ownership in the neighborhoods of Hough and MidTown.
- Eliminating a food desert with the construction of the Dave’s Supermarket, a 55,000 square-foot, full-service grocery store housing a pharmacy and bank. This supermarket provides jobs, creates access to fresh foods, and teaches the community about the importance of healthy eating habits. The foundation provided a \$1.5 million loan to this project as part of the overall financing package.
- Investing in a federally designated medical/dental underserved area, the University Hospital Rainbow Center for Women & Children is a 40,000 square-foot urban health center with 46 exam rooms and co-locates social services for the community. The foundation provides grant support to the community programming in this facility.

The scope of the proposed RAISE project catalyzes long-term, multigenerational social and economic development to enhance underserved neighborhoods and transform the lives of people who deserve and need it so desperately. For all of these reasons, the MidTown-Hough Connector Project is the most sustainable, equitable, and transformational infrastructure project in the United States.

The Cleveland Foundation has already committed \$900,000 to the East 66th Street infrastructure project to complete the engineering work. Contingent upon the obligation of RAISE grant funding to the project, and pending Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors approval, the Cleveland Foundation and other local partners are committed to providing cash cost share contributions to cover twenty percent of the allowable project costs.

The Cleveland Foundation stands ready to work with you and serve as a resource to your department in our joint goals of rebuilding our community’s infrastructure with the values of sustainability and equity. If you have any questions about this project or my commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ronald B. Richard
President and CEO



July 1, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. This project is more than essential infrastructure – it will show the community they have a powerful voice in shaping their future, bring investment to neighborhoods that have been disregarded for a generation, and add vital connectivity between neighborhood assets, jobs, housing, health care, and transit.

MidTown Cleveland, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) community and economic development organization pursuing a vision for a connected community in the center of it all, an inclusive place for people to innovate, create, prosper, and live. The neighborhood we serve sits between two of the largest employment centers in Ohio, Cleveland's downtown and University Circle. For decades MidTown was overlooked and forgotten, suffering from crime, blight, demolition, and disinvestment.

Just over a decade ago our fortunes changed and we saw firsthand the impacts of a transformative infrastructure investment. In 2008 the Euclid Corridor HealthLine bus rapid transit line opened along Euclid Avenue, our central spine, and the results have far exceeded our wildest dreams for the neighborhood. The \$200 million transit investment led to a surge of \$350 million of investment and counting along Euclid Avenue in MidTown, including over one million square feet of commercial space, 300 units of housing, a full service grocery store, health care, a new children's museum, renovated concert venues, and a new home to our community foundation.

Despite this investment, the Hough neighborhood just two blocks north of Euclid continues to suffer from poor community health outcomes, high vacancy and foreclosure rates, and high unemployment, disconnected from the investment along Euclid by Chester Avenue, an urban renewal project which cut a tear in the urban fabric to make it easier for suburban commuters to

5000 Euclid Avenue Suite 100 | Cleveland, Ohio 44103



get downtown, currently carrying 33,000 cars a day across six lanes of traffic. MidTown's approach has been to engage residents north of Chester in shaping what takes place in the neighborhood, to ensure those residents can benefit from future development. Collectively we have worked with residents to re-weave this tear in the urban fabric, better connect our two neighborhoods, and shape an inclusive future.

The MidTown-Hough Connector project along East 66th exemplifies that approach. Designed through an innovative and inclusive planning process, the Project will connect Hough residents to assets and jobs in MidTown, improve the quality of life for residents and employees, trigger inclusive development in Hough that longtime residents can benefit from, and address climate change, community health, and sustainability. On the east side of Cleveland where infrastructure investment for generations has been focused on commuters along an east-west axis, this north-south investment places residents first. We couldn't be prouder of how the community's voice is imprinted all over this plan, and wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support the City of Cleveland's application

We are additionally excited about how this project will help create hundreds of new accessible jobs. We have been working with our local universities and hospitals to cultivate an inclusive innovation district in the heart of MidTown along East 66th Street, which sits halfway between our anchors downtown and in University Circle. We have assembled 11 acres of land adjacent to East 66th and Euclid for development of our innovation district with the aspiration and intent of becoming the most equitable innovation district in the country. The connectivity provided by East 66th for cyclists, pedestrians, and other multimodal transportation is a piece of essential infrastructure to help us achieve this vision.

We believe the MidTown-Hough Connector Project aligns perfectly with the current Administration's focus on equity in federal infrastructure investments and the criteria outlined in the RAISE program. We are confident it will have the same kind of generational impact the Euclid Corridor HealthLine project did on the City and neighborhood we work in and love.

I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Epstein".

Jeff Epstein
Executive Director

5000 Euclid Avenue Suite 100 | Cleveland, Ohio 44103



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Executive Committee Members

Grace Gallucci, NOACA Executive Director

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the 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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The MidTown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the transportation and environmental planning agency that represents state, county, city, village, and township officials in Greater Cleveland. NOACA is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties.

In 2010, NOACA approved funding for the League Park Neighborhood District Plan, sponsored by the City of Cleveland, through its Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) program. The study established a strategy for future investment in the Hough neighborhood, specifically the League Park District. The goal of the plan was to depict a future for the neighborhood that will direct public investment, private redevelopment and multi-modal transportation initiatives. The plan provided a framework to catalyze the revitalization of League Park, with the aim to bring unity, prosperity and identity to this important Cleveland neighborhood.

Since the completion of the plan in 2012, there have been significant undertakings within and beyond the immediate study area. In addition to investments made by the residents and community stakeholders, several recent catalytic announcements for projects along the East 66th Street corridor were beyond the scope of the original TLCI plan. In 2019, the Cleveland Foundation expressed interest in partnering and provided a \$150,000 grant to NOACA to update the TLCI plan specific to content and expanded geography. The goal of the updated plan is to guide current and planned future investments along the entire East 66th Street corridor.

Recognizing the inherent racism built into the infrastructure of America's cities, a community-led prototype for neighborhood street design was initiated to ensure the voices of those most impacted by these inequities had a seat at the table to reimagine and improve the East 66th corridor. 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 is being advanced as the first pilot for implementation under NOACA's Complete and Green Streets policy adopted in 2020.

With RAISE grant funds, the MidTown-Hough Connector Project will improve the corridor by implementing the recommendations of neighborhood residents and youth. East 66th 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.

In line with the new Administration's 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 underserved neighborhoods, and transform the lives of people who deserve and need it so desperately. As such, the project directly advances NOACA's goals to build a sustainable, multimodal transportation system that supports economic development and enhance quality of life for the region's residents and visitors.

For these reasons, NOACA supports the City of Cleveland's MidTown-Hough Connector Project. Contingent upon the obligation of RAISE grant funding to the project, NOACA will amend the planning grants to its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to allow for expeditious implementation.

Respectfully,



Grace Gallucci,
Executive Director and CEO

GG/rl/9002s



Basheer S. Jones COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 7

COMMITTEES: Safety • Health & Human Services • Development, Planning & Sustainability
Workforce & Community Benefits

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
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 was elected to Cleveland City Council in 2017 and proudly serve the residents of the City of Cleveland as their Ward 7 Councilman, representing the historic neighborhoods of Hough and Midtown, as well as parts of the St. Clair-Superior and Asia Town neighborhoods.

I fully support the City of Cleveland's application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. I am directly involved with the Midtown-Hough Connector Project to realize the neighborhood's shared vision for a 21st century streetscape. This project would strengthen the connection between the Hough and MidTown neighborhoods and improve community access to anchor institutions and economic opportunity – enabling equitable economic development and job creation.

During my tenure as Councilman, I have focused my time and energy on shepherding more than half a billion dollars in investment to Ward 7, creating more than 1,000 new jobs. I strongly believe our community's residents must maintain control over their land; this land is the key to wealth creation. I helped establish the Hough Community Land Trust, a nonprofit organization designed to buy and lease land to developers after negotiating community benefit agreements.

A central component to the MidTown-Hough Connector Project 's economic competitiveness, the land trust builds wealth for community residents by ensuring long-term real-estate affordability and supports racially and economically inclusive ownership in the neighborhoods of Hough and MidTown. This land trust, financially supported by the Cleveland Foundation and guided by a national consultancy, will build community wealth instead of siphoning value out of the neighborhood or displacing longtime residents through higher rents and taxes through gentrification.

The Midtown-Hough Connector Project will have a dramatic and positive impact in the community, transforming the lives of people who deserve and need it so desperately. For these reasons, I urge you to please fund this transformative and equitable project.

If you have any questions about this project or my commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me at: bjones@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BA' with a stylized flourish.

Councilman Basheer Jones
Ward 7-City of Cleveland
216.664.2908

Carolyn Watts Allen, Esq.



1669 East 73rd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
216.791.8632

June 10, 2021

Pete Buttigieg

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:

My name is Carolyn Watts Allen, I am a retired attorney, and former Safety Director for the City of Cleveland under the administration of Mayor Michael R. White. I was born and raised in Cleveland. In 1990 my husband Robert and I along with 19 other families initiated the first new owner-driven housing development in the Hough community known as Renaissance Place. As you are aware the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland struggled greatly against disinvestment and neglect of its good citizens and infrastructure going back many decades. In the 90's, encouraging policies of the White administration initiated promising efforts to revitalize our city and its neglected neighborhoods like Hough. However, long term growth has been slow and impacted by many economic setbacks.

Now, after living in Hough for 27 years and raising our family in this neighborhood along with our neighbors here in Renaissance Place; and having worked with the committed citizens of Hough, I can say we are again encouraged by the attention that is being given to the potential impact that continued development our community can have on the revitalization of the entire near East Side of our city. Well before and during the Covid pandemic, Citizens of Hough have been working hard to plan and promote community revitalization especially the East 66th Street corridor. Citizens have worked with Mid Town Development Corporation and other business entities to ensure that Hough is not just another "pass-through" to access the large institutions that surround us. No, neighbors young and old have been an integral part of

the planning process for the development of north-south corridor of East 66th. The Cleveland Foundation and other "big guys" have sat at the "zoom" table with us and listened to our voices. We have accomplished something that has rarely been accomplished, true partnership between institutions and the people. That is what is going to make the East 66th Street project unique. This is going to be an example to the entire city of Cleveland on how to really do urban development. The emphasis being on the people and not the buildings or highways.

As a resident volunteer with Mid Town Development Corporation, I see how they have diligently brought together all the players in this redevelopment effort. They have advanced the principle that if communities like Cleveland are to grow equitably, all elements of society; institutional, governmental and residents, including our youth, must participate together to bring about opportunity for all. This is what will be accomplished and demonstrated to all by the approval of the RAISE grant for the Midtown-Hough Connector Project for East 66th Street. Please advocate for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Carolyn W. Allen, Esq.

1669 East 73rd Street

Cleveland, Ohio 44103

216-203-9036

June 7, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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:

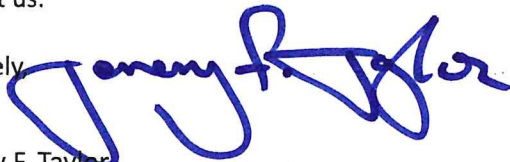
As the President and a Board Member of the Hough Community Land Trust, we are writing in support of the City of Cleveland's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The community has identified a vision for the Hough neighborhood particularly for the East 66th Street corridor, a one-mile multimodal connector that will connect the MidTown and Hough neighborhoods.

As residents in the Hough community on East 66th Street and East 73rd Street, this corridor is important to our community because of its historic physical assets and residential investment. Our families and neighbors invested in the neighborhood by building new construction in the 1990s, the first major investment since the Hough riots/uprising in 1967 of families returning to the Hough community and city. As new institutions, corporations and organizations have joined our neighborhood, the Hough Community Land Trust stands ready to support the neighborhood by acquiring strategic parcels in order to keep land costs affordable and to reinvest gains directly back into the community.

We have worked together over the course of years to reimagine and improve our community and we see the Midtown-Hough Connector Project as the type of long-awaited infrastructure investment to make our neighborhood a more connected place to live, work, and grow.

For these reasons, the Hough Community Land Trust supports the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jeremy F. Taylor

Hough Community Land Trust; President
5918 Linwood Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44103
216-849-5461



Secretary Pete Buttigieg
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, OH)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a resident and business owner on the proposed corridor I'm writing you 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.

The East 66th Street Corridor project is important to my community for the following reasons: Upon its completion it will aid greatly in attracting new residents to locate in one of the proposed new homes on the corridor; it will attract new customers to our vineyard and winery which, in turn, will allow us to expand our operation and create new employment opportunities for neighborhood residents.

Community partners, residents, and the City of Cleveland worked together to reimagine and improve the East 66th corridor through a collaborative planning and design process that I participated in. East 66th is one of the first streets to develop north to south and its improvement would catalyze neighborhood development across the city. Specifically, the corridor would be a walkable street that we hope would become a destination of choice for Cleveland resident as well as visitors.

For the above stated reasons I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. I hope this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal receives your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

Mansfield Frazier
Ex. Dir. Neighborhood Solutions

June 11, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As members of the E. 66th Advisory Council and resident of Hough, 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.

The East 66th Street corridor is extremely important to our community for the following reasons. This neighborhood has represented so much for African Americans who have lived in this historic area for decades. There are many memories of the great leaders who have made this community stronger just by being available. From Jane Edna Hunter, Fannie Lewis, Carl Stokes, to Carolyn Allen and Basheer Jones, these local legends have encouraged many that change is possible. E 66th Street is like the heartbeat of this community and the people here deserve changes that would preserve this great neighborhood. We want E. 66th Street to be its own cultural highway that will help inspire every generation to stay and build within the community. There is a reason why the Historic League Park has never shut down, it's because this community is special and it also represents African American history.

All around the country African Americans are misplaced and gentrified out of neighborhoods without government resources and tangibles. We want Hough to be an example of what can happen when you give the people a fair chance to survive and grow. For E. 66th Street to receive federal funding would be huge and it'd be a small step for what African Americans really deserve, Reparations for slavery. Most of the residents of this community are decedents of African American slaves and our neighborhoods in the past have been intentionally neglected because of who we are. There is a long list of unpunished crimes against African Americans in many Black US neighborhoods and it's time for a change. Hough has so much potential and could be one of the first examples of a dominantly Black neighborhood getting the attention it needs from its government. There are many other cultural districts throughout the city of Cleveland where the residents there live, work and play. Our vision is to have the same and something unique to us that represents the greatness of us.

Community partners, residents, and the City of Cleveland worked together to reimagine and improve the East 66th corridor through a collaborative planning and design process. Further, East 66th is one of the first streets to develop north to south and its improvement would catalyze neighborhood development across the city. We are hoping for new lighting, sidewalks, biking lanes, park spaces, recreation center, family restaurant, media hubs, artwork and more. We should have access to all the things you would typically see in communities that are thriving and working together. I even remember residents saying it's embarrassing to have our areas look the way they do and not be proud to show it off. We want to create a look and feel that is welcoming to all people of any kind and just a place we love to call home. The more opportunities you give people in area the more you create jobs, better social engagement, inspired innovators and entrepreneurs. I truly believe that it is our time to shine and this grant could be the first stepping stone to empower a community.

For these reasons we support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason T. Carter

E. 66th Advisory Council Board Member

1611 E. 66th St. Cleveland OH, 44103

314-532-7749

Residents of Hough Signatures of Approval

1. *Aspen*
2. *Laruce Loney*
3. *Mercedes Dant*
4. *Chris Morrow*
5. *Tanaka Heat*
6. *Jaruce DANIEL*
7. *Kurt Bradford*
8. *Rub Bahub*
9. *Sylvia Berpel*
10. *Jasymone Adams*
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.



League Park
6601 Lexington Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
Phone: 216-789-1083
info@baseballheritagemuseum.org
www.baseballheritagemuseum.org

Founder and President
Bob Zimmer

Museum Director
Ricardo A. Rodriguez

Director of Baseball Activities
Jay Murphy

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June 7, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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:

As Founder and President of the Baseball Heritage Museum at Cleveland's Historic League Park, and fervid supporter and advocate for the Midtown Corridor and Hough Neighborhood 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.

The East 66th Street corridor is important to this community and its residents for the following reasons. This sector has historically been associated with immersive civic activism, communal empowerment, and devout sense of place. Reinvigoration of this iconic stretch of Cleveland's historic Hough neighborhood would support a rebirth of social placemaking and collaborative action while buttressing the existing sense of community pride and ownership.

Community partners, residents, and the City of Cleveland worked together to reimagine and improve the East 66th corridor through a collaborative planning and design process. Further, East 66th is one of the first streets to develop north to south and its improvement would catalyze neighborhood development across the city. An infusion of funds and support for the E. 66th street corridor will create an engaging walkable and inviting portion of the community while introducing new and exciting opportunities for a diverse population of business owners and minority entrepreneurs. The expectations of a revitalized East 66th street corridor is high and anticipated to be a permanent change to the way that the neighborhood is engaged by its residents and their regional neighbors.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert Zimmer
Founder & President

Baseball Heritage Museum
6601 Lexington Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

216-406-5729



June 8, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

DigitalC is a non-profit organization focus on improving Greater Cleveland's digital literacy and providing residents with affordable, high-speed internet connection. Decades of redlining have propagated a digital divide in Cleveland, with some areas of Cleveland lacking the necessary digital connection to advance in the 21st century and resulting in Cleveland being ranked as the #1 worst connected cities in the US with over 100,000 total population.

As DigitalC addresses the lack of access to internet, their employees and volunteers face a similar problem: lack of access to transportation. The project's initiative to repair crumbling infrastructure, combined with an emphasis on transportation equality, make the project a necessary investment in ensuring DigitalC can best achieve their mission. Furthermore, investment in the area allows DigitalC's coworking space, *Tech Hive*, to spread their mission to a larger audience with more enterprise in the neighborhood.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorothy C. Baunach".

Dorothy C. Baunach
Chief Executive Officer



Dunham Tavern Museum

6709 Euclid Ave. | Cleveland, OH 44103
www.DunhamTavern.org | 216-431-1060
lauren@dunhamtavern.org

June 7, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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:

As Executive Director of Dunham Tavern Museum, the oldest building in Cleveland on its original site located in the heart of MidTown, 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.

As Dunham Tavern Museum enters 2021, just three years shy of its 200th anniversary, we are working to transform from a small, member-oriented museum to a public-facing cultural anchor. The E. 66th Street corridor is key to connecting us to residents and other cultural institutions to ensure that community members can move readily throughout the neighborhood and enjoy its many assets.

Community partners, residents, and the City of Cleveland worked together to reimagine and improve the E. 66th corridor through a collaborative planning and design process. Further, East 66th is one of the first streets to develop north to south and its improvement would catalyze neighborhood development across the city. For Dunham, busy streets have been both a physical and perceptual barrier dividing us from nearby residents, and we're highly encouraged that the E. 66th Street project will facilitate greater access in coordination with our own efforts to be a place that is welcoming to all. I look forward to the day that a Hough resident can easily walk down E. 66th Street and come on to the Dunham grounds to enjoy a picnic lunch, get some outdoor exercise, or pause to relax in a garden.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lauren Hansgen
Executive Director



June 25, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

At Growth Opportunity Partners ("Growth Opps"), we offer community development capital, services, and solutions to growing small businesses, primarily located in underserved, low and moderate-income (LMI) communities in Ohio. Growth Opps was founded in 2015 to address the need for high-quality advisory services and access to capital for companies that have not yet accessed mainstream lending options. Growth Opps serves Northeast Ohio with over \$4,000,000 deployed since inception to minority-led, female-led, and LMI based companies. Located in the Link 59 building, Growth Opps is a key component of Midtown's economic infrastructure.

The Midtown-Hough Connector Project is an important step in expanding the impact of Growth Opps's services to the surrounding community. By stimulating economic activity in the area, the project provides Growth Opps with an expanded client base, which in turn allows Growth Opps to support more small businesses in the area. Moreover, the project's commitment to hiring and workforce diversity aligns closely with Growth Opps's mission to improve the quality of life for low and moderate-income individuals. By prioritizing diversity and the promotion of underrepresented communities through strategic investment, both the project and Growth Opps help to enhance an already historic neighborhood.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Jeans".

Michael Jeans
President & CEO





OUR MISSION

JumpStart unlocks the full potential of entrepreneurship to transform entire communities.

June 9, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

JumpStart is a nationally recognized investing, entrepreneurial support and economic development organization dedicated to unlocking entrepreneurship to transform entire communities. JumpStart was excited to move to Midtown Cleveland ten years ago because we wanted to be part of the re-birth of a community closer to important neighborhoods filled with entrepreneurs, small businesses and some of Cleveland's most important institutions.

JumpStart is part of a coalition of community groups, including the Cleveland Foundation, MidTown Cleveland Inc., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, planning the "MidTown Cleveland Innovation Community" along the East 66th Street corridor. As an anchor tenant within the Innovation Community, JumpStart is a vested stakeholder in the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. This project will improve neighborhood safety and access to the collaborative, inclusive, and equitable Innovation Community and enhance the identity of the East 66th corridor.

The region stands poised for catalytic change that will spark collaborative innovation and bring greater income equality. The City of Cleveland and project stakeholders have targeted equity and innovation upfront in a way that makes the Innovation Community accessible to the broader community and creates economic opportunity. In this way, the project sets a new standard for equity and inclusion.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. If you have any questions about this project or JumpStart's commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ray T. Leach, CEO
216-363-3406

CONNECT WITH US

6701 Carnegie Ave., Suite 100, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 • jumpstartinc.org • 216.363.3400



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Pete Buttigieg
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.

For more than 30 years, MAGNET: The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network has served the 18 counties of Northeast Ohio, offering a range of services to manufacturers as part of the national and Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). These services, which include product and process development, workforce initiatives, and operations consulting, help companies by improving revenue and job retention as well as driving economic development in Northeast Ohio.

MAGNET is a vested stakeholder in the Midtown-Hough Connector Project, as we are building a new workforce and innovation hub to serve as our headquarters at the southern edge of the Hough neighborhood in the heart of the new MidTown Cleveland Innovation Community. Being in this neighborhood is both symbolic and important. We want manufacturers to come and see that their future workforce is in neighborhoods like Hough.

In 2019, manufacturers in the region rolled out a plan to hire 3,000 workers as part of a larger push to narrow a skills gap. MAGNET, working with the Greater Cleveland Partnership, is leading the charge on this initiative in hopes of making the region the nation's "manufacturing capital." MAGNET's new headquarters will be a physical manifestation of this campaign, with a two-story, glass-framed manufacturing floor visible to passing motorists and pedestrians and a 6,900-square-foot classroom for Cleveland Metropolitan School District students. We will train career-focused high-schoolers for high paying advanced manufacturing careers.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



President and CEO
MAGNET: The Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network

June 11, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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:

As practicing pediatricians in the Hough community, and active participants in the UH Rainbow/MidTown Cleveland Community Advisory Board we are 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.

The East 66th Street corridor is important to our patients for the following reasons:

- The physical, social, and technological links that will be created and reinforced through this initiative are a critical part of addressing the root causes of health disparities currently experienced by our patients and their families.
- This effort is highly collaborative, and by design not only ensures community voice is taken into account in order to address the needs and priorities of residents, but ensures the community is engaged, empowered, and inspired to be part of processes and progress.

Community partners, residents, and the City of Cleveland worked together to reimagine and improve the East 66th corridor through a collaborative planning and design process. Further, East 66th is one of the first streets to develop north to south and its improvement would catalyze neighborhood development across the city. We anticipate that the neighborhood transformation around East 66th Street will be a crucial part of infrastructure improvements necessary to achieve better health outcomes for our patients and their families. We also expect it will serve as a foundation for other initiatives intentionally designed to prioritize justice and equity.

For these reasons, we support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Aparna Bole, MD FAAP

Medical Director, Community Integration
UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
UH Rainbow Ahuja Center for Women & Children
5805 Euclid Ave
Cleveland OH, 44103
aparna.bole@UHhospitals.org
440-879-2269



Sarah Ronis, MD MPH

Director, Center for Child Health & Policy
UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
11100 Euclid Avenue, Mailstop RBC 6036
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
sarah.ronis@UHhospitals.org
216-286-6933



6555 Carnegie Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44103

P 216 752 8750

June 8, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Bialosky is a multidisciplinary design firm comprised of architects, engineers, interior designers, graphic designers, planners, and strategists. The company, which has been in continuous operation for 70 years, prides itself on the three pillars of imagination, curiosity, and hard work. Along with this, Bialosky's staff of highly trained individuals employs the principles of leading by example, listening to others, challenging assumptions until satisfied, and building with passion into their everyday work schedules.

Not only will the Midtown-Hough Connector attract more clients due to the increased investment that will sprout along the E. 66th corridor, but Bialosky will have the chance to further implement our equity-promoting principles into the community. Known as one of the Top Workplaces in northeast Ohio according to The Plain Dealer, an increased opportunity for local hiring by Bialosky will positively impact the economy and contribute to the creation of jobs that this project ensures.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Deutsch, AIA, LEED AP
Principal, COO

June 9, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Cleveland HeartLab is a global leader in innovative heart disease detection. Originally a spin-off from Cleveland Clinic, HeartLab was acquired by Quest Diagnostics in 2017. Since then, Quest Diagnostics has established the Cleveland HeartLab as a national center of excellence for heart disease diagnosis. With a 25,000 square-foot facility on East 66th street, Cleveland HeartLab serves a vital role in combatting the largest cause of death in America, heart disease.

Cleveland HeartLab's location in the East 66th street's Tech Park means that investment in the corridor will positively impact businesses operations. Because of the project's improvements to connectivity, through public transportation, improved road conditions, and an innovative road plan, CHL will be able to connect more closely to its community. Furthermore, the project's emphasis on safety provides innumerable benefits, both to business and the community.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mouris Saghir, PhD

VP, General Manager, Cardiovascular Metabolic & Endocrine Franchise
Cleveland HeartLab

Cumberland Development, LLC

June 24, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Cumberland Development is the owner of the Baker Electric Building, located on East 66th street. For more than a century, the building has been at the forefront of innovation, from showcasing some of the nations first electric cars to its current home for tech startups. Currently, Cleveland's Tech Elevator, Custom Orthopedics, and University Hospital's Transitional Lab all are located in the Baker Electric Building.

The East 66th street corridor is an important project to both Cumberland Development and its tenants. For years, Cumberland has been a driving force in attracting talent and innovation to the area, helping turn the tide in the Midtown neighborhood. The safety measures implemented through the project are an important measure in achieving the potential of the neighborhood and will allow Cumberland to attract more talent to fill the building. The same principle applies to our tenants, the safer and more robust the neighborhood Midtown becomes, the more interest we receive in our properties, which allows us to put money back into Midtown through future developments.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Pace, A.I.A.

CEO, Cumberland Development, LLC



June 21, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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)

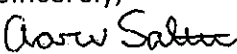
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Founded in in the late 1920s, Dave's Markets is a regional supermarket chain, operating 13 branches across Cleveland. In 2018 Dave's Market opened Dave's Mercado, a supermarket with a Spanish focus, reflecting the demographics of the community, and in 2019, Dave's opened a location on East 61st street and Chester, a few blocks away from the East 66th street corridor.

Dave's Markets supports the Midtown-Hough Connector Project for a multitude of reasons. Primarily, investment in the Midtown community has always been a priority of Dave's. The Midtown location of Dave's was chosen with the needs of the community in mind, and the projects support of the same value aligns the mission of both. In addition, with increased foot traffic, Dave's can better serve the community by expanding the prepared meals section of the store, which has supported community residents since its opening. Moreover, if there were to be more economic activity in the neighborhood, Dave's would be able to hire people from the community to work in the store and support them with well paying union jobs.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Aaron Saltzman, Treasurer



June 14, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Dealer Tire is an international distributor of tires and other parts and services to automotive OEMs and their dealerships. Located in Cleveland's Midtown neighborhood for more than a century, in 2017 Dealer Tire moved to a newly renovated headquarters location in Midtown's Health-Tech corridor – a move that retained the Company's 400-plus associates in the City of Cleveland, preserved a 100-year-old structure in Midtown, and created catalytic opportunities for further development in Midtown.

Investment in the East 66th corridor is essential for the continued integration of Dealer Tire into the neighborhood community. In the status quo, poor economic activity in Midtown means that our associates travel to Midtown to work, and then leave at the end of the day. With continued support of the Midtown-Hough Connector Project, Dealer Tire is confident that Midtown can achieve its potential and become much more than a workplace. With the creation of an arts and cultural district and a focus on attracting new businesses, we believe that Midtown can become a vibrant community with strong connections between our neighborhoods and our businesses.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Bittner
Partner, Chief People Officer and President, International Operations





June 15, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Eagle Family Foods is a diversified food company with its headquarters on E 61st, a short walk away from the E 66th street corridor. Specializing in condensed milk and salted snacks, Eagle Foods is the driver behind many of the recipes Americans use and love.

While not directly on the E 66th street corridor, Eagle Family Foods stands to benefit from the investment on the street. With the project's priority of job creation, Eagle Foods can draw talent from a larger talent pool, increasing its ability to conduct business in an efficient manner. They also stand to benefit from the increased safety as a result of the project; less crime in the area increases the likelihood they find and retain employees without having to address safety concerns.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco Leal".

Marco Leal
Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer



June 10, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Frontline Development Group, LLC is a minority-owned, female-led firm. The project aligned to E. 66th is the Allen Estates which is a mixed-use, mixed-income, neighborhood consisting of 125 housing units comprised of modern designed homes, brownstones, and mid-rise apartments with commercial tenants. The project will span along E. 65th from Linwood to Wade Park as well as the E. 66th Corridor, which is targeted for significant public/private investment. The E. 66th corridor connects the Allen Estates to other anchor investments coming online including the new location for the Cleveland Foundation Headquarters and the newest branch of Cleveland Public Library. The Allen Estates project will provide mixed income housing types to the existing residents Hough community, as well as attract new residents who are employees of the newly anticipated Innovation District and neighboring institutions such as Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic and University Hospital.

With a location in the center of the project, Frontline Development is a fundamental stakeholder in the project's vision of the future. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project's commitment to turning 66th street into a destination enables Frontline to meet diverse housing needs as well as promote equitable, economic development through the support of small, minority owned businesses anchoring in Hough. Moreover, Frontline will serve as an instrumental player in preserving the rich cultural history neighborhood.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'Sheila M. Wright', is written over a horizontal blue line.

Sheila M. Wright
President

June 8, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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:

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Gallucci's is a retail store and commercial distributor of gourmet Italian products, located right on East 66th street. With a thriving Little Italy minutes away, Gallucci's is a fundamental piece of a Cleveland landmark.

As is the case with retail stores, Gallucci's depends on the neighborhood and its stability to bring customers in the door. Investment in the E 66th street corridor is important, as enhanced infrastructure is fundamental to improving access to the store. A stable and vibrant location is vital to the strength of Gallucci's, and the project's commitment to increasing foot-traffic in the area makes Gallucci's mission of providing service to the community easier.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Marc R. Kotora
Vice President
Gallucci's Italian Foods

HEMINGWAY DEVELOPMENT L.L.C.
6700 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

June 9, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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)

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Hemingway Development is the owner of three buildings on or adjacent to the East 66th street corridor, altogether comprising the Midtown Tech Park. With more than a dozen tenants across its properties, Hemingway Development provides the groundwork by which Midtown businesses grow upon.

Understandably, the success of Hemingway Development is correlated to the success of its tenants. While its tenants grapple with conducting business in a historically ignored neighborhood, investment in the neighborhood is needed to turn the tide. The project's emphasis on building wealth in the area, alongside much needed improvements to safety and infrastructure, allow Hemingway and its tenants to reap the benefits of a neighborhood finally receiving the funds necessary to progress.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Doyle
Principal
Hemingway Development



June 9, 2021

Tru by Hilton
Midtown Hospitality LLC
6955 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103
(216) 536-0377

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

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

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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

Tru by Hilton Midtown is a dynamic, 114 room hotel located steps away from the East 66th street corridor. Opened in 2019, the hotel is situated dead-center of Cleveland's Midtown, with easy access to both Cleveland's downtown to the west and cultural district to the east.

Tru stands to benefit from investment in the area in a multitude of ways. Rationally, the more visitors to the newly upgraded Midtown district, the more business Tru can expect to have. The resulting economic output: with more visitors, Tru can hire more employees from the surrounding community. Because of investment in the area, Tru will be able to market itself as the go-to hotel in the up-and-coming Cleveland neighborhood. Furthermore, easier access to the hotel, through better road conditions and increased access to public transportation, connects Tru to a larger population base.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Smith

Brian J. Smith

June 8, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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)

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MCPc is a global data protection company that values commitment, expertise, and results. Through its daily operations of protecting client data, managing the complexity and sustainability of technology, and ultimately reducing business risk, MCPc works with an underlying passion for improving the community. This company acts on this commitment to surrounding neighborhoods by providing employment opportunities at every level of education and paying those employees at wages which exceed the national average.

Not only will the Midtown-Hough Connector bring in more clients due to the increased investment that will sprout along the E. 66th corridor, but MCPc will have the chance to act on its commitment to the community by enforcing the diversity and sustainability practices featured throughout the project. Although not directly on E. 66th street, MCPc will benefit from the ease of access to its buildings upon completion of the project, which will be important when it comes to implementing local hiring practices.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Andy Jones
Chief Executive Officer
MCPc, Inc.

June 8, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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. If awarded, the funding would be used to realize the community's shared vision for transforming the East 66th Street corridor, a one mile essential but crumbling infrastructure link, into a safe and accessible multimodal connector. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

OHM is a firm that specializes in architecture, construction engineering, GIS & Innovative Technologies, Urban Design, and more. All of these specialties are backed by the company's mission of advancing communities by actively implementing diversity, inclusion, and equity to make better places for people. Always thinking in the future, OHM always puts the needs of people first when creating safe and sustainable solutions, from innovation to implementation.

Although not directly located on E. 66th street, OHM stands to benefit from the increased investment along the corridor upon completion of the Midtown-Hough Connector project. Not only will there be an increased number of businesses, therefore prospective clients, but the sense of OHM's mission and equitable practices will spread, progressively influencing future companies' daily operations. With the projects focus on job creation and increased access to places of employment, OHM also stands to benefit from the increased pool of potential employees when hiring from within the neighborhood.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Russell Critelli, PE, PMP
Principal/Manager of Cleveland
Russ.critelli@ohm-advisors.com
D: 216.865.1339



June 9, 2021

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
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)

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Pierre's Ice Cream Company's has been delighting ice cream lovers for 89 years; creating high-quality, delicious ice creams and frozen treats. Members of the Pierre's team take great pride in the finely crafted recipes that have thrilled generations of ice cream lovers. The company manufactures and distributes a variety of ice cream products in its 115,000 square-foot facilities on Euclid Avenue and East 65th street. As an anchor in Cleveland's Midtown neighborhood, Pierre's helped lead its redevelopment through its actions of remaining in the neighborhood and reinvesting in its facilities and employees.

While Pierre's facility is not directly on East 66th street, it supports the project and the numerous positive ways it will impact the community as well as the entire region. As the project invests in the neighborhood and creates more robust conditions for workers, Pierre's can connect with a larger talent pool, a vital component in expanding business operations. Moreover, by investing in safe transportation near its community, Pierre's can ensure its workers reach work quicker and safer.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelley Roth".

Shelley Roth
President

6200 Euclid Avenue
Phone: 216-432-1144

Cleveland, OH
Fax: 216-432-0433

44103-3724
www.pierres.com



June 8, 2021

Pete Buttigieg
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)

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Radio One is the radio division of Urban One, the largest black-owned broadcasting company in the United States. With media targeted at African Americans, Urban One creates content to effectively engage Black Americans with tailored media. Radio One's Cleveland Branch actively manages four radio stations, with a target audience of nearly 200,000.

Radio One's location in the East 66th street's Tech Park means that investment in the corridor will positively impact the businesses operations. With improvements to connectivity and public space, through public transportation, improved road conditions, and an innovative road plan, Radio One will be able to connect more closely to its community. Furthermore, the

project's emphasis on of safety provides innumerable benefits, both to business and the community.

For these reasons, I support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and I hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Harrell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Eddie Harrell, Jr.
Regional Vice President, Radio One



June 9, 2021

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

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Tech Elevator is an educational provider offering an Industry-aligned full-stack curriculum that provides a platform for people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to gain the in-demand 21st century skills needed to land a fulfilling software developer job. The Cleveland campus of Tech Elevator boasts a 95% graduation rate and 87% job placement rate, placing graduates in positions with nearby companies like PNC Bank, Progressive Insurance, and KeyBank.

Located in the Baker Electric Building, minutes away from the E. 66th street corridor, Tech Elevator recognizes the importance of this investment in furthering our mission of elevating the people, companies, and communities we serve. This project will widen accessibility to our neighborhood, lead to more foot traffic, and will increase our ability to help train local residents for modern, higher-paying jobs in the tech industry. Furthermore, the project's emphasis on stimulating local businesses will broaden the career options for our graduates, allowing us to expand our enrollment and the impact of our mission.

For these reasons, we support the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project, and hope you will give this 2021 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full attention and strongest consideration. If you have any questions about this project or our commitment to its success, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marty Mordarski'.

Marty Mordarski

Cleveland Campus Director | Tech Elevator

WEXFORD

SCIENCE+TECHNOLOGY

9 June 2021

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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. The Midtown-Hough Connector Project would strengthen the 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.

A coalition of groups, which includes the Cleveland Foundation, MidTown Cleveland Inc., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, and Jumpstart Inc., have planned the "MidTown Cleveland Innovation Community" along the East 66th Street corridor. This group has chosen Wexford Science & Technology to be the project's master developer for the first set of buildings within the Innovation Community, including the Center for Innovation located at Euclid Avenue and East 66th Street. Wexford is the nation's leading developer of knowledge-centric, inclusive innovation districts that catalyze economic opportunity by providing the physical and programming environment that promotes the intermingling of university research, entrepreneurial activity, corporate engagement, and community inclusion.

Racial equity and economic opportunity are core values of the Innovation Community, which will utilize local residents in the design and conception of the project. Educational, training, and entrepreneurship programs will prepare residents for jobs – this is a core element of the first phase and commitments from the anchors to these programs are essential. Community land trust models will also be utilized to guard against displacement in adjacent neighborhoods.

The Midtown-Hough Connector Project will improve neighborhood safety and access to the collaborative, inclusive, and equitable Innovation Community and enhance the identity of the East 66th corridor. MidTown has a residential population of 2,000 and a median household income of just over \$20,000. The surrounding Hough neighborhood has a population of just under 11,000 with a median household income under \$16,000 and substantial unemployment. This project will directly address these challenges with deliberate and intentional action around long-term economic opportunity for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and economic mobility and wealth creation opportunities for all residents.

The region stands poised for catalytic change that will spark collaboration and bring greater income equality. The City of Cleveland and project stakeholders have targeted equity and innovation upfront in a way that makes the Innovation Community accessible to the broader community and creates economic opportunity. The project will set a new standard for equity and inclusion, both in Cleveland and as a model for communities across the country.

For these reasons, Wexford Science & Technology supports the City of Cleveland's Midtown-Hough Connector Project and are happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have about how such projects have provided successful inclusive economic development opportunities in other projects we have developed.

Sincerely,



Thomas Osha
Senior Vice President,
Innovation and Economic Development