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STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

September 18, 2024

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

RE: Letter Supporting City of Cleveland's Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I am writing to express my support for the City of Cleveland's Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Application for the North Coast Connector Land Bridge & Downtown Boulevard Project. This is a rewarding opportunity to provide the Greater Cleveland community with safe, accessible and equitable infrastructure that reconnects them to Cleveland's greatest natural asset: Lake Erie.

For over a century, Lake Erie's shoreline has been severely restricted from public access by several major railroad corridors, a limited-access freeway (OH-2) and large swaths of industrial and commercial land uses. The requested funding from the RCP program for the Project will remove these barriers and restore safe and accessible connections to the lakefront within downtown.

Specifically, the North Coast Connector Land Bridge & Downtown Boulevard Project will advance construction of a 120-foot-wide park-like bridge that will create a visually and physically uninterrupted multi-modal access, from downtown to the lakefront. The Project will also include substantial reconfiguration of a more than a mile of substandard freeway into a signalized, 35-mph boulevard with associated at grade intersections, sidewalks and bike infrastructure.

The Project has broad local, statewide and national support and has secured substantial funding toward implementation including a \$20 million commitment from the State of Ohio.

I appreciate your consideration of the North Coast Connector Land Bridge & Downtown Boulevard Project Grant Application. I respectfully request that this innovative transportation investment for the community be carefully reviewed and considered.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress