

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Ohio's North Coast is richly blessed by its stunning Lake Erie waterfront, and we take immense pride in the investments being made to enhance communities along its shores. One of the most transformative initiatives is the North Coast Connector project in Cleveland—a city with a lakefront that remains largely inaccessible. This project aims to bridge the gap between the downtown business district and the lakefront, and we wholeheartedly support it.

The North Coast Connector is a pivotal element of Cleveland's North Coast Master Plan, designed to provide crucial infrastructure that will unlock access to the lakefront and pave the way for future development. To realize this vision, the City of Cleveland is seeking a diverse range of funding sources, including federal support through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG). This funding will be instrumental in developing and constructing a land bridge and reconfiguring the Cleveland Memorial Shoreway (State Route 2) into a safer, pedestrian-friendly boulevard to connect downtown Cleveland to the lakefront.

In 2023 alone, downtown Cleveland's lakefront attracted 2.8 million visitors, primarily from outside the city. The area boasts iconic attractions such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and the Greater Cleveland Science Center. With anticipated growth in visitation, the redevelopment of the lakefront promises substantial benefits to the state's economy and the region's quality of life. The North Coast Connector is projected to have an economic impact of \$7.7 billion.

We understand the grant review process may be in its final stages, so we wanted to take this opportunity to express our united support of the City of Cleveland's MPDG application for the North Coast Connector project, recognizing it as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance a vital part of our beloved coastline. This project will ensure that Ohioans and visitors alike can access and enjoy the lakefront for years to come.

Sincerely,



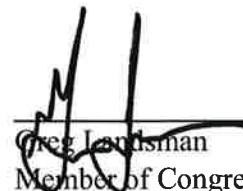
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



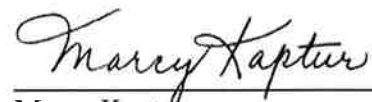
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
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