

LINDEN GREEN LINE LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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- State Elected Officials - Ohio Senate - State Senator Michele Reynolds
- Ohio House of Representatives - State Representative Adam C. Miller
- State Representative Allison Russo
- State Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
- State Representative Beth Liston
- State Representative Dontavius L. Jarrells
- State Representative Ismail Mohamed
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- Columbus City Council Member Emmanuel V. Remy
- Columbus City Council Member Melissa Green
- Columbus City Council
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- City Year Columbus
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- Columbus Downtown Development Corporation
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- Columbus Regional Airport Authority
- Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority
- Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority
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- DLZ
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- GHD
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- Community Housing Network
- CompDrug
- Creative Housing
- Directions for Youth & Families
- Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI)
- Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
- Godman Guild
- Harmony Project
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- I Am Boundless
- Impact Community Action
- Jewish Family Services
- LifeCare Alliance
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- National Alliance on Mental Illness
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- NAIOP
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- Business Associations & Neighborhood Organizations - Northland Community Council

SHERROD BROWN

OHIO

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

February 29, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As you consider applications for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, I write to bring your attention to the application submitted by the City of Columbus, Ohio.

The City of Columbus is seeking support to transform a seven-mile corridor into a 58-acre linear park and trail to be accessible to over 131,000 people. The Linden Green Line, an abandoned rail corridor, bisects key Columbus neighborhoods and travels close to two major arterial roadways in Columbus and the CMAX Bus Rapid Transit route, operated by the Central Ohio Transit Agency. This trail could transform the area, which is currently one of the city's highest incidence areas for pedestrian and cyclist crashes.

With its Linden Green Line project, the City of Columbus aims to improve the quality and accessibility of their regional transportation network. This project would serve as a part of the LinkUS and Central Ohio Greenways efforts to improve commuting throughout the region. The City of Columbus is planning for the Linden Green Line project to be a critical infrastructure project for the region's future, while also serving as a local project of national significance in demonstrating how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps in one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.

As you consider applications for the RAISE grant program, I ask that you give full and fair consideration for the application from the City of Columbus. Please keep my office updated on the status of this application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

HONORABLE MIKE CAREY
15TH DISTRICT OF OHIO



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request submitted by the City of Columbus. This project transforms an abandoned seven-mile inner city rail corridor into a regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Linden Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.

The reach of this project is massive, serving more than 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses. The Green Line includes 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants.

The project would provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks, as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

Two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. I have made it a point during my time in congress to help address vehicle collisions with vulnerable road users. This project directly addresses some of these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. I offer up my highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Carey'.

Rep. Mike Carey
Member of Congress

JOYCE BEATTY
OHIO, 3RD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL SECURITY, ILICIT FINANCE,
AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND MONETARY POLICY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3503

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4324-PHONE
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471 E. BROAD STREET, SUITE 1100
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(614) 220-0003-PHONE
(614) 220-5640-FAX

Beatty.house.gov

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Third Congressional District of Ohio, I write to draw your attention to the application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) capital grant program submitted by the City of Columbus to rebuild its Linden Green Line rail corridor. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor that was recently acquired by Columbus into a thriving regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project would be monumental for Columbus residents: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. The project would also seamlessly put in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75 percent) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity

gaps. As you consider applications for the RAISE capital grant program, I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the application from the City of Columbus. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of assistance.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I, State Senator Hearcel F. Craig, write this letter to express my strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,
State Senator Hearcel F. Craig

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hearcel F. Craig".



Michele Reynolds
State Senator
3rd Senate District

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8064

Committees:
Judiciary – Vice Chair
Community Revitalization
Education
Rules & Reference
Workforce & Higher Education

February 26th, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged. The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City.

The Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

I offer my recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Reynolds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "R".

Michele Reynolds
State Senator
3rd State Senate District



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I fully support the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The project includes 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace. More than 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses will be served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line will provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

I ask that you give the application every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam Miller".

Adam Miller
State Representative



Representative C. Allison Russo
Minority Leader
The Ohio House of Representatives

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request, which would be used to transform 7 miles of abandoned corridor into a regional linear park and pedestrian transportation corridor. Located in the inner city of Columbus, Ohio, the Linden Green Line exists within one of the city's highest incidence areas for pedestrian and cyclist accidents. Development of the Linden Green Line would provide a safe and accessible transportation route, connecting 13 neighborhoods and 9 developing affordable housing projects to 135 miles of regional greenways, 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

The devastating impacts of redlining and restrictive covenants have resulted in disempowered and disconnected neighborhoods that, despite the close proximity to the CMAX Bus route and two major roadways, experience limited car ownership, and access to safe and reliable transportation. This project has been established as a high priority for the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative, with 75 percent of the surrounding census tracts in this area having been identified by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) as disadvantaged.

Thank you for giving your full and fair consideration to the RAISE grant application submitted by the City of Columbus Linden Green Line, and for your support of similar projects across Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Allison Russo".

C. Allison Russo
House Minority Leader
7th House District

4th House District
Parts of NE Franklin County
Including Gahanna, New Albany,
Westerville, Columbus, Jefferson,
Plain, and other area Townships



Committees
Commerce & Labor
Pensions (Ranking Member)
Primary & Secondary Education
Technology & Innovation

Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
4th House District

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of **the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request**. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. **The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.** This project would seamlessly provide direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now **undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew**; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged **by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)**. **The two major roadways** through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in Columbus. I also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. I respectfully request your full and fair consideration of the **City of Columbus' application** to the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beryl Brown Piccolantonio".

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
State Representative
4th House District



Representative Liston

State Representative
8th House District

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the office of Ohio State Representative Beth Liston, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

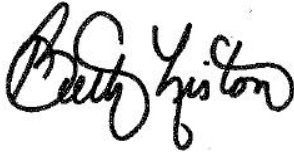
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in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

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

Representative Beth Liston

District 08

77 S. High St, 10th floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 644-6030 | rep08@ohiohouse.gov

Committees:

Commerce and Labor
Constitutional Resolutions
Finance
Financial Subcommittee on
Higher Education, **Ranking Member**
Insurance
Rules and Reference

Office: 614-466-5343
Email: Rep01@ohiohouse.gov



Representative Dontavius L. Jarrells
Assistant Minority Leader
Ohio House District 1

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We ask that you give full and fair consideration to the city of Columbus' Linden Green Line RAISE application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Jarrells', written over a faint background image of the Ohio Statehouse.

Representative Dontavius L. Jarrells
Assistant Minority Leader
Ohio House District 1

Committees

Ranking Member, Constitutional
Resolutions
Civil Justice
Criminal Justice



Committees:

Financial Institutions
Homeland Security
Pensions
Ohio Indigent Defense Task Force

Ismail Mohamed

State Representative, Ohio House District 3

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

In my capacity as State Representative for Ohio House District 3, I write this letter to express my strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national

significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. I urge full and fair consideration of the Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request.

Sincerely,



Ismail Mohamed
State Representative
Ohio House District 3





February 26, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

As the State Representative for District 5 in Central Ohio, I can assure you the reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. I offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Brown", written over a white background.

Richard D. Brown
State Representative, House District 5



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus City Attorney’s Office, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus’ \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region’s highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway’s Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative’s Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity

Civil Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7385
Fax: 614-645-6949

Claims Section
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7717
Fax: 614-724-6503

Prosecution Division
375 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7483
Fax: 614-645-8902

Real Estate Section
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7712
Fax: 614-645-3913

Police Legal Advisor
120 Marconi Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-4530
Fax: 614-645-4551

gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ZACH KLEIN", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zach Klein

EMMANUEL V. REMY

COUNCILMEMBER

T (614) 645-3560
EVRemy@columbus.gov



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Emmanuel V. Remy, Columbus City CouncilMember, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The City of Columbus' mission is to provide leadership that will inspire: high standards of excellence in the delivery of city services; a spirit of cooperation, pride and responsibility to achieve strong, safe and healthy neighborhoods; and a shared economic prosperity and enhanced quality of life. We undertake this mission believing and knowing that we can make a difference for future generations. The city of Columbus, like many urban areas, supports neighborhood bike trails like the Linden Green Line for various reasons that align with the city's broader urban planning goals, community well-being, and sustainability.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NICK BANKSTON | LOURDES BARROSO DE PADILLA | NANCY DAY-ACHAUER | SHAYLA D. FAVOR |
MELISSA GREEN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | CHRIS WYCHE**

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

City Hall | 90 West Broad Street | Second Floor | Columbus OH 43215 | T (614) 645.7380 | F (614) 645.6164 | columbuscitycouncil.org

EMMANUEL V. REMY

COUNCILMEMBER

T (614) 645-3560
EVRemy@columbus.gov



The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emmanuel Remy". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Emmanuel Remy

CouncilMember

Columbus City Council

**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NICK BANKSTON | LOURDES BARROSO DE PADILLA | NANCY DAY-ACHAUER | SHAYLA D. FAVOR |
MELISSA GREEN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | CHRIS WYCHE**

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

City Hall | 90 West Broad Street | Second Floor | Columbus OH 43215 | T (614) 645.7380 | F (614) 645.6164 | columbuscitycouncil.org

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

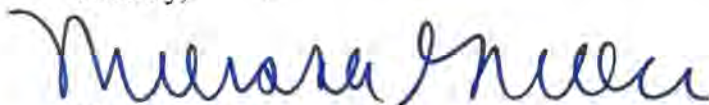
I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow the Linden Green Line project the ability to open as early as 2028 and has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in Columbus. I believe the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close gaps in opportunity and equity. I offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Melissa Green
Columbus City Councilmember, District 6



SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NICHOLAS J. BANKSTON | LOURDES BARROSO de PADILLA | NANCY DAY-ACHAUER | SHAYLA D. FAVOR
MELISSA GREEN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | CHRISTOPHER L. WYCHE

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

February 20, 2024



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus City Council, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The City of Columbus is committed to providing residents with multimodal transportation options and encouraging active transportation. The Green Line project would connect one of Columbus' most transportation-burdened neighborhoods and expand mobility options for residents across the city. This project is strongly aligned with ongoing transportation and environmental initiatives and Columbus City Council is eager to enhance the Green Line project by supporting similar developments across the city.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shannon G. Hardin".

Shannon G. Hardin
President, Columbus City Council



**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NICHOLAS J. BANKSTON | LOURDES BARROSO de PADILLA | NANCY DAY-ACHAUER | SHAYLA D. FAVOR
MELISSA GREEN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | CHRISTOPHER L. WYCHE**

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

February 20, 2024



Nancy Day-Achauer
Councilmember, Columbus City Council
Chair of Neighborhoods, Recreation, and Parks Committee



Christopher Wyche
Councilmember, Columbus City Council
Chair of Public Utilities and Sustainability Committee



Lourdes Barroso de Padilla
Councilmember, Columbus City Council
Chair of Public Service and Transportation Committee



SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NICHOLAS J. BANKSTON | LOURDES BARROSO de PADILLA | NANCY DAY-ACHAUER | SHAYLA D. FAVOR
MELISSA GREEN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | CHRISTOPHER L. WYCHE

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE
Application**

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most

County Administrator
Kenneth N. Wilson, MPA

373 S. High St. 26th Fl.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

t_ 614 525 4132
f_ 614 525 5940



Franklin County
**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kenneth N. Wilson'.

Kenneth N. Wilson, MPA, ECI, CTA
Franklin County Administrator



BRAD FOSTER, P.E., P.S.
FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER

February 22, 2024

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

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I, Brad Foster, Franklin County Engineer of Ohio's most populous county, am writing to express my endorsement for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line 2024 RAISE Construction Grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned railway line into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

I have worked diligently to improve the safety and quality of the county transportation system, upholding the Franklin County Engineer's Office's collaborative mission to develop great working relationships with industry partners such as the City of Columbus. The Green Line is identified as one of Franklin County's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 Initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these safety issues and will link 13 neighborhoods by providing improved access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks, serving over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses. The project will also connect the 135 miles of regional greenways and over 9 affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

A RAISE Capital Grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028, continuing Franklin County's positive momentum of providing safer, multimodal facilities for businesses, residents, and roadway users of all ages and abilities. I respectfully request approval of this beneficial project for the residents of Franklin County and ask that you please approve this request to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Foster".

Brad Foster, P.E., P.S.
Franklin County Engineer



The Honorable Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Franklin County Clerk of Courts

Administration
373 South High Street, 23rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.525.3600

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Franklin County Clerk of Courts Office, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Franklin County Clerk of Courts' Office employs approximately 200 full-time Deputy Clerks that serve in five divisions: Auto Title, Legal, Fiscal Services, Information Technology, and Administration. Four of those divisions are in seven different offices in the Franklin County Courthouse complex. The fifth, Auto Title, is in four branch offices throughout Franklin County. Each division is important to the Franklin County Clerk of Courts' two major functions: management of court documents and issuance of auto titles.

Ensuring that our employees live and work in a community that is committed to walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace and reversing the damage of redlining and restrictive covenants is of great importance to me as an elected official. Additionally, when I was a Columbus (Ohio) City Councilmember, I strongly advocated for expanding safe bike lanes and pedestrian walkways, and this proposal will address the need for both in this corridor.

The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in Columbus. We also believe that the Green Line has the potential to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. Our Office wholeheartedly encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund this application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Franklin County Clerk of Courts



Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr.

Franklin County Recorder

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Franklin County Recorder's Office, I am writing this letter to express our office's strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project converts a seven-mile abandoned rail corridor in inner-city Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor. This land was recently acquired by the City of Columbus within the past year.

The mission of the Franklin County Recorder's Office is to record, preserve, and protect public records related to real estate, personal property, and other legal matters. We store these documents for the public to safeguard their property interests and to efficiently retrieve records as needed. Our archives contain land records dating back to the establishment of Franklin County in 1803 – including primary source documents relating to the racial redlining that occurred throughout Columbus. We are happy to help our government and community partners in efforts to reduce the lasting effects of redlining in Franklin County.

The reach of the Green Line project is remarkable: it includes seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of newly walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and links over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses. The Green Line project would connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that were decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. This new trail will provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, four community centers, and ten parks. The Green Line has been identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. This project also connects 135 miles of regional greenways, at least nine affordable housing projects in development, and provides a direct route to Kilbourne Run Sports Park. (The Kilbourne Run Sports Park is currently undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and the Columbus Crew, the local Major League Soccer team.)



Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr.

Franklin County Recorder

The Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways that go through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow the Linden Green Line to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in the City of Columbus. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance by showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the highest possible recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. O'Connor, Jr.



**Department of
Transportation**
transportation.ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Jon Husted, *Lt. Governor*
Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., *Director*

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: City of Columbus' Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Ohio Department of Transportation is pleased to support the City of Columbus' Linden Green Line application for the FY24 RAISE Program.

This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

The Green Line is identified as one of Central Ohio's highest priorities in Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The City of Columbus will be the direct recipient of a RAISE grant award. I respectfully request consideration of this beneficial project for the citizens of Ohio.

Respectfully,

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D.
Director

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

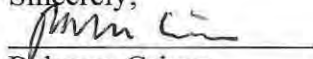
On behalf of Clinton Township, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Grimm
Clinton Township Trustee (Chair)



MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP
Peace. Safety. Welfare.

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Mifflin Township, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Mifflin Township is located immediately east of the proposed area. This project would benefit not only Columbus residents but also residents of Mifflin Township and adjacent Clinton Township. Mifflin Township's unincorporated area encompasses about 3000 residents. The Franklin County Land Bank (COCIC) has recently begun building new homes in this 1950's established area and we are looking toward revitalizing the area. This project would enhance the quality of life for the residents which has been designated as a low-income area.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. White
Fiscal Officer
On Behalf of the Mifflin
Township Board of Trustees

February 21, 2024

Erika Clark Jones
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Trustees:

Scott Doran, Chair
Donna Zuiderweg, Vice Chair
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Randi Smith

Nathan P. Wymer

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County, our organization strongly supports the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

As the county behavioral health authority, ADAMH leads the planning, funding, and evaluation of community-based recovery oriented mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and support services for residents in Franklin County. From stress reduction and mood enhancement to fostering social interaction and physical activity, parks play a pivotal role in promoting holistic health and wellbeing for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. The Linden Green Line will transform a 7-mile corridor into a vibrant 58 acre linear park and trail, accessible to over 131,000 people who live within minutes of walking and cycling distance.

The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

The Green Line project seeks to address longstanding disparities in access to nature and will ensure that all residents have the opportunity to reap the benefits of outdoor recreation and relaxation. We hope you will consider funding the Linden Green Line project with the RAISE capital grant.

Sincerely,



Erika Clark Jones
CEO

447 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3822
614.224.1057
614.224.0991
adamhfranklin.org
@ADAMHFranklin
Where Better Begins.



February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

AHACO is a nonprofit organization, composed of 38 members from across the local housing continuum, that are all unified in our mission to expand housing access and affordability for the region. We believe that safe, decent, affordable housing is essential to improving the quality of life for our residents and growing our economic opportunities for our community, which is why we similarly support this proposal.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio | 215 North Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | www.ahaco.org | 614.344.5027

Beacon 360 Management
The Columbus Foundation
Columbus Housing Enterprise
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Columbus Urban League
The Community Builders
Community Development for All People
Community Housing Network
Community Shelter Board
Creative Housing
Fairfield Homes
Finance Fund
Franklinton Development Association

Habitat for Humanity MidOhio
Home for Families
Homeport
Homes on the Hill
Huckleberry House
Impact Community Action
Jewish Family Services
Legal Aid Society of Columbus
Nationwide Children's Hospital
National Affordable Housing Trust
National Church Residences
NRP Group

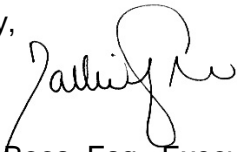
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
Partners Achieving Community Transformation
Preservation of Affordable Housing
The Refuge
Renter Mentor
The RISE Center
Star House
TFG Housing Resources
United Way of Central Ohio
Wallick Communities
Woda Cooper Companies
YMCA of Central Ohio
YWCA Columbus



This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Carlie J. Boos, Esq., Executive Director
Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus & Franklin County, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The mission of the Affordable Housing Trust is to facilitate and invest in developments designed to create and preserve affordable housing; strengthen and stabilize neighborhoods; and support working households, seniors, and special needs populations. AHT continues to collaborate with and support our partners across the community working to increase access to not just housing, but jobs, health care, and education throughout our region. The Linden Green Line will help to strengthen infrastructure and connectivity along the corridor, encouraging key development opportunities that will aid AHT in continuing our mission.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close



AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

FOR COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY

opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Lark T. Mallory
President & CEO

Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus & Franklin County



COCIC-FRANKLIN COUNTY LAND BANK

845 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43206

Phone: 614.724.LAND (5263)
www.cocic.org • info@cocic.org

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

COCIC is an Ohio land reutilization corporation (land bank) whose mission consists of removing barriers that impede the proper use/reuse of problem properties. We have demolished a high number of blighted, vacant and abandoned structures in the Linden neighborhood. Through our subsidiary the Central Ohio Community Land Trust (COCLT) we are constructing new affordably priced homes in areas of the neighborhood transversed by the proposed Linden Green Line. We believe that this project will be a very significant asset for the community and will assist in the selling of the new homes and will build a more vibrant, attractive and desirable place to live and play.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Removing Barriers. Reusing Land. Rebuilding Communities.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtiss L. Williams, Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curtiss L. Williams, Sr.
President & CEO



February 16, 2016

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Central Ohio Hospital Council, I am writing to express support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

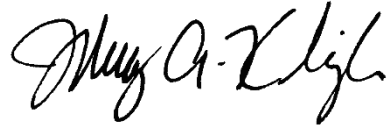
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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

I offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Klingler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey A. Klingler
President and CEO



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Central Ohio Transit Authority moves millions of Central Ohio residents, employees, visitors, and students every year. Our organization is committed to moving every life forward, and we work closely with the City of Columbus on multi-mobility design and implementation. The Linden Green Line runs parallel to COTA's bus-rapid-transit corridor, allowing multiple connection points and many opportunities to make walking, biking, and utilizing public transit an easier choice for so many in our community.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25-square-mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.



A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kimberly Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "S" at the end.

Kimberly S. Sharp
Sr. Director Development
Central Ohio Transit Authority



CITY YEAR COLUMBUS

350 E. 1st Avenue, Suite 250
Columbus, OH 43201
PHONE 614.586.4520
cityyear.org/columbus

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of City Year Columbus, I am writing this letter to express our support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

City Year Columbus is an education-focused nonprofit organization that partners with Columbus City Schools to help keep students in school and on-track to graduate through individualized academic support, near-peer mentoring, and whole school engagement initiatives. We currently partner with and provide services to students that attend six Columbus City schools including two located in the Linden Community: Linden McKinley STEM Academy and Windsor STEM Academy.

City Year works closely with the school principal and teachers to determine which students need extra help, then implements individualized, data-driven solutions for each "focus list" student while providing support to the entire school community. City Year AmeriCorps members serve all day, every day throughout the school year to ensure that students are receiving the support they need both in and out of the classroom. Our team would utilize the Linden Green Line to access the schools we serve.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Adera Robinson
Senior Vice President & Executive Director



Metro Parks



1069 West Main St.
Westerville, Ohio
43081

metroparks.net

Board of Park Commissioners

Aryeh Alex

JB Hadden

George McCue

Executive Director

Tim Moloney

Metro Parks

Battelle Darby Creek

Blacklick Woods

Blacklick Woods
Golf Course

Blendon Woods

Chestnut Ridge

Clear Creek

Glacier Ridge

Heritage Trail

Highbanks

Homestead

Inniswood

Pickerington Ponds

Prairie Oaks

Quarry Trails

Rocky Fork

Scioto Audubon

Scioto Grove

Sharon Woods

Slate Run

Slate Run Living
Historical Farm

Three Creeks

Walnut Woods

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District (“Metro Parks”), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus’ twelve million dollar Linden Green Line RAISE Capital grant request. This project transforms a seven-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor, which was recently acquired by the City of Columbus, into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Metro Parks is a park district based out of Franklin County, Ohio. We manage over 28,000 acres of land and work closely with the City of Columbus to manage the region’s Central Ohio Greenways (“COG”) trails, and have partnered with the City on many park and recreation projects. A core tenement of our organization is the preservation of greenspace and the provision of places and opportunities that encourage our constituents to discover and experience nature, a goal that we feel will be strongly supported by the Linden Green Line project.

The reach of this project is monumental: seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; fifty-eight acres of new walkable, bikeable and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses will be served by the Green Line. The project would also connect thirteen neighborhoods in a 25-square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to nineteen schools, four community centers and ten parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region’s highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway’s Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative’s Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Moloney', is written over the typed name and title.

Tim Moloney
Executive Director, Metro Parks

COLUMBUS^{*} DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION & CAPITOL SOUTH

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Columbus Downtown Development Corporation & Capitol South, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

CDDC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the mission to revitalize Downtown Columbus, creating an accessible and prosperous neighborhood for all. In developing the 2022 Downtown Strategic Plan, residents made their desires clear: enhance equity, cultivate walkability and create connectivity through and to Downtown Columbus. Transformative transportation planning is key to linking Columbus neighborhoods to Downtown and closing gaps between neighboring communities. The Green Line project would be a critical step in creating a more connected, inclusive Columbus, where everyone has the opportunity to share in Downtown's prosperity and access nearby amenities and initiatives.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Davies'.

Greg Davies,
Columbus Downtown Development Corporation & Capitol South



**COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN
HOUSING AUTHORITY**
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

880 East 11th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211
P: 614-421-6000
cmhanet.com

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) is pleased to support the City of Columbus' application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

CMHA helps people access affordable housing through collaborative partnerships to develop, renovate, and maintain housing; promote neighborhood revitalization; and assist residents in accessing needed social services. Our vision is to be a national leader in opening doors to innovative housing for diverse communities, empowering residents and improving neighborhoods.

The City's project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Scharlach".

Scott Scharlach, Chief Operating Officer
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
880 E 11th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
614-421-6215
sscharlach@cmhanet.com

Columbus Next Generation Corporation

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus Next Generation, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Columbus Next Generation was created by the mayor's office in 2012 to assist neighborhoods inside the 1950 boundaries of Columbus, Ohio to spur development and growth.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Boyce Safford
Executive Director

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of One Columbus, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a seven-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

One Columbus is the economic development organization for the 11-county Columbus Region. Working with local and state partners, One Columbus serves as the business location resource for companies across Central Ohio and around the world as they grow, innovate, and compete within the global economy. Since 2010, our experienced team has worked with hundreds of companies and helped to secure over \$10 billion in capital investment, over 50,000 direct jobs, and more than \$2 billion of new payroll across the Columbus Region.

Projects that have the potential to be as impactful as this one don't come along every day. With 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace, it has an immense opportunity to serve the community in unique and important ways, including:

- Serving 131,000 people and over 3,000 businesses
- Connecting 13 historically disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Giving better access to 19 schools, four community centers, and ten parks
- Providing a direct connection to Kilbourne Sports Park, a modernized community space that will serve as a safe destination for young people
- Securing connectivity to nine upcoming affordable housing projects

In disadvantaged communities, connectivity drives security, safety, and progress. The Linden Green Line has the capability to empower thousands with greater opportunity. 12 of the census tracts it engages are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool. This investment will improve quality of life and address safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists, boosting a community that has earned greater support.

One Columbus' mission is to lead a comprehensive regional growth strategy that develops and attracts the world's most competitive companies, grows a highly adaptive workforce, prepares our communities for the future and inspires corporate, academic and public innovation throughout the Columbus Region. The Linden Green Line project has the potential to be a highly impactful infrastructure project, and the RAISE grant will help it come to fruition for the benefit of not just the community, but the entire Columbus Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenny McDonald". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kenny McDonald
President and CEO, Columbus Partnership
KM/nl

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus Public Health, I am writing in support of the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This funding is important as the project will transform a seven mile inner city abandoned rail corridor into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

This project will serve over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses and build a healthy and equitable community through seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities and 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable and playable greenspace. The project also will connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by historical redlining and restrictive covenants. Additionally, the Green Line will provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, four community centers, and 10 parks.

Furthermore, the Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, which is undergoing a \$30 million transformation sponsored by the City of Columbus and the Columbus Crew. It also will connect to 135 miles of regional greenways and over nine affordable housing projects in development along the corridor.

Additionally, the Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts with 75% identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road, which run through these communities, are also on the High Injury Network, posing significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

Overall, the Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city, serving as a national model on how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. As such, I urge your highest consideration of this funding request which will create a safer, healthier and more equitable community for all people in central Ohio

Best of Health,



Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

HEALTH COMMISSIONER | Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH
BOARD OF HEALTH PRESIDENT, EX-OFFICIO:
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther



BOARD OF HEALTH:
Andrew E. Boy | Deena Chisolm, PhD
Shayne N. Downton | William A. Grobman, MD, MBA

February 17, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

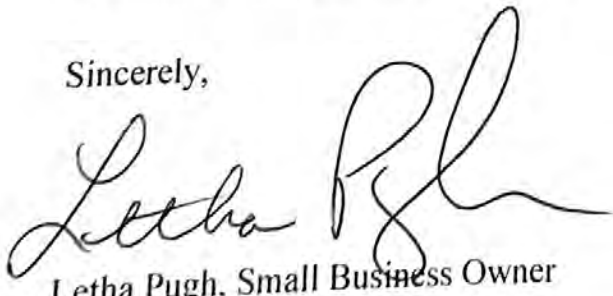
As chair of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission, we understand that investing in the Columbus Linden Green Line is a paramount to our city's growth and development.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Letha Pugh, Small Business Owner

Chair, City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department



COLUMBUS
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

February 25, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a seven-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is significant: seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, four community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. We believe that the Green Line could be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We appreciate your favorable consideration to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph R. Nardone".

Joseph R. Nardone
President & CEO

4600 International Gateway | Columbus, Ohio 43219
614.239.4000 | ColumbusAirports.com

JOHN GLENN
INTERNATIONAL

RICKENBACKER
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

BOLTON
FIELD



**Columbus-Franklin County
Finance Authority**

Patty Huddle, President
300 Spruce Street ~ Suite 220
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office 614.427.0394
Mobile 614.560.0211
PHuddle@columbusfinance.org
www.columbusfinance.org

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

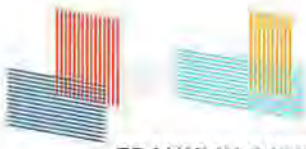
A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Huddle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "H".

Patricia Huddle

President



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
CONVENTION FACILITIES
AUTHORITY**

COLUMBUS

400 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 827-2800
meetusincolumbus.com

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority (“FCCFA”), I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus’ \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region’s highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway’s Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative’s Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line can be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the highest possible recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Ken C. Paul
Executive Director
Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Franklin County Public Health, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jensen

Sarah Jensen MPH, REHS, CP-FS
Assistant Health Commissioner
Director of Environmental Health



182 East Long St.
Columbus OH 43215
P: 614-224-2606

WWW.GCAC.ORG

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a seven-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.



A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Katzenmeyer
President & CEO

Friday, February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, we are writing this letter to express our strong support **for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.**

The Greater Columbus Sports Commission exists to help Columbus win, host and return sporting events that drive economic and social development for the city, enrich the lives of its residents and raise the profile of our growing community. Since 2002, the Sports Commission has worked collaboratively to host nearly 600 new sporting events for an estimated direct visitor spend of more than \$625 million. This grant request would make a direct impact on our ability to support active, healthy living **for Columbus' residents and visitors alike.**

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our **region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.** And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation **jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as** connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged **by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).** The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Linda Shetina Logan
CEO & President
Greater Columbus Sports Commission

THE JEFFERSON AVENUE CENTER

A HISTORIC CAMPUS OF NONPROFITS

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of trustees of the Jefferson Avenue Center, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

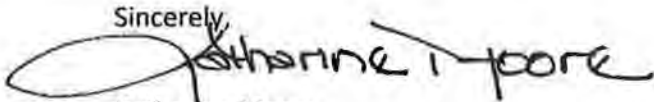
We are a multiple tenant nonprofit housing 26 organizations in historic properties we have repurposed over the last 48 years. Our tenants serve the most vulnerable populations in the region and have thousands of clients who would benefit from the Green Line.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katharine Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Katharine Moore
Executive Director



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 111
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

MORPC is heavily involved in trail development throughout Central Ohio. The Central Ohio Greenways are a regional effort and collaboration across Central Ohio municipalities. This work has led to the development of over 230 miles of trails throughout Central Ohio. MORPC's role in this collaboration is to provide support to coordinate trail development. The Linden Green Line will add to the development of the Central Ohio Greenways and provide increased equitable access to recreational amenities.

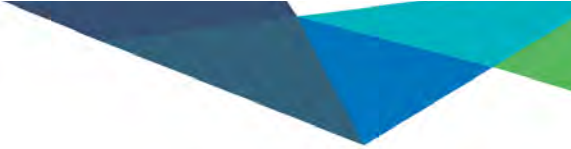
The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

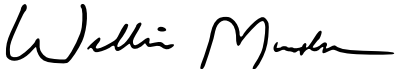


connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Kind regards,



William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



North Linden Area Commission

% Department of Neighborhoods
1410 Cleveland Ave, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH
43211



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the residents of North Linden, the North Linden Area Commission writes this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The North Linden Area Commission is the representative advisory area commission established under Title 31 of the Columbus City Codes in order to, among other purposes, "Initiate, review and recommend criteria and programs for the preservation, development, and enhancement of the commission area, including, but not limited to, parks." The Linden Green Line linear park will run along the eastern border of our area, converting a disused rail right-of-way to a beneficial use.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace, all serving over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses. The project will connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that were severely diminished by redlining, restrictive housing covenants, and car-centric development patterns. The Green Line will provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenways' Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. The park will give these communities direct access to the Kilbourne Run Sports Park, which is now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew. The park will also help connect these neighborhoods to 135 miles of regional greenways, which provide safe and equitable transportation around the region without increasing vehicle miles traveled.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians. Both roads lack any facilities for bike and scooter riders. This project directly addresses these issues by providing a safe north-south route.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the highest possible recommendation that the U.S. Department of Transportation fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,


The North Linden Area Commission



Carol Perkins
Chair



Michelle Dranichak
Code Enforcement Chair




Amber Broadus



Oluwafunmiyi Daniel Ajayi
Vice Chair



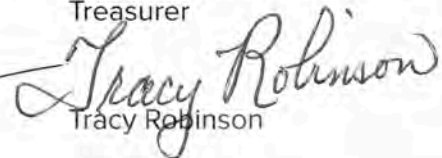
Ben Keith
Zoning Chair



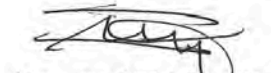
Ebony Fadis
Secretary



Jasmine Ayres
Treasurer



Tracy Robinson
Tracy Robinson



Maryan Abbi-Dualle



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Rev1 Ventures, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Tom Walker

Tom Walker
President & CEO



February 23, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of RISE Together Innovation Institute, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request.

At RISE Together, we believe that all of us, regardless of race, income, or zip code, want to live a good life and provide for our families. We all need safe, vibrant communities, a foundation of economic security, and resources and opportunities to thrive. But in 2021, an estimated 190,000 Franklin County residents lived in poverty.

The Linden Green Line will serve residents who have been historically excluded from building wealth and financial security and from education and housing opportunities. It is surrounded by sixteen census tracts. Twelve (75%) of those sixteen tracts are designated as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The project will connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that has been systematically excluded from resources and opportunity by redlining and restrictive covenants. It also provides connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a regional linear park and active transportation corridor. The scope of this project is significant: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities, 58 acres of greenspace for walking, biking, and play, and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses will be served. The Green Line is a high priority in several local initiatives, including the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.

Cleveland Ave. and Westerville Rd. are two major roadways that run through the same communities that the Linden Green Line is surrounded by. Cleveland Ave is one of the most dangerous streets in Columbus for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Two children were recently killed crossing Cleveland Ave and a third child was critically injured. Cleveland Ave and Westerville Rd are both on the High Injury Network, which maps corridors where high numbers of people have been killed and severely injured in traffic crashes. This project will provide a safer alternative for walkers and bikers. The Green Line will provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We believe it has the potential to improve the lives of residents living in communities in and around the Green Line. The Green Line can be a national model for how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. Thank you for considering our recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

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

Danielle L. Sydnor, CEO
RISE Together Innovation Institute



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Smart Columbus, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jordan Davis'.

Jordan Davis
Executive Director, Smart Columbus



February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

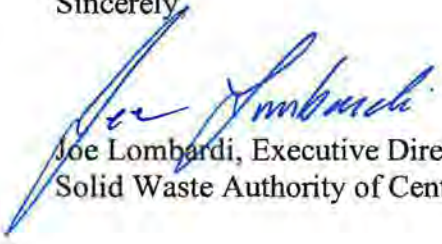
On behalf of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. Moreover it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,


Joe Lombardi, Executive Director
Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Transit Columbus, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Transit Columbus is a volunteer driven organization with zero employees, fighting for equitable and abundant mobility options in central Ohio. The Green Line would not only be a boon for the region by greatly increasing our bicycle network, but it also aligns with our vision of fighting for equitable mobility options by investing in the underserved neighborhood of Linden.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Trevin Flickinger



215 North Front Street, Suite 600
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3377
614.227.2700

liveunitedcentralohio.org



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of United Way of Central Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa S. Courtice".

Lisa S. Courtice, Ph.D.
President and CEO

215 North Front Street, Suite 600
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3377
614.227.2700

liveunitedcentralohio.org



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of United Way of Central Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wilkos".

Michael Wilkos
Vice President, Community Engagement



February 15th, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio, (WDBCO) we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

WDBCO works with employers to source talent and jobseekers to develop skills and obtain quality, well-paid jobs. The Linden Green Line is important to the many residents adjacent to the development who will be able to travel to employers of choice.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. ...". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Yay Bikes! I am writing in strong support of the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Yay Bikes! is a bicycle advocacy and education organization in Central Ohio that teaches people to ride bikes for transportation in the road conditions that exist today and works to improve the conditions that will exist tomorrow. We advocate for equitable infrastructure investments that will help people safely and comfortably ride bicycles in Central Ohio and beyond.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most impactful infrastructure projects in our City in recent memory and greatly advance transportation equity. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. For these reasons, we give our full endorsement of the Linden Green Line, and highly recommend the U.S. Department of Transportation fully fund and support the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin E. Synk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Erin E. Synk
Vice-President and Advocacy Chair
Yay Bikes!

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg


On behalf of the Columbus, Ohio office of AECOM, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

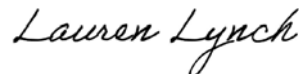
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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. AECOM also believe that the Green Line can be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Bongiorno, AIA
Vice President-Managing Principal
AECOM Columbus



Lauren Lynch, AICP
Transit Planner
AECOM Columbus



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of American Electric Power, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria L Haberman".

Maria L Haberman
Vice President, Ohio External Affairs

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 16, 2024

Subject: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to endorse the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio, serial company creator, investor, and a Board Director at organizations deeply invested in the growth, shared prosperity, and cultural strength of our region, including The Columbus Partnership, The Columbus Foundation, and The Columbus Downtown Development Corporation (CDDC). I am confident that this project will significantly contribute to the safety, health, and vitality of Columbus residents and the Linden and Northland communities.

As the CEO of AndHealth, I am dedicated to building a company that strengthens community health centers and expands their capacity to bring specialty care directly to the community. AndHealth is actively partnering with two CHCs with sites along the proposed Linden Green Line. Lower Lights Christian Health Center has a South Linden site and will open a new Northland site in 2025, and PrimaryOne Health also has a site in the South Linden area.

Health plays a critical role in the economic well-being and human flourishing of all residents, and this initiative has the potential to transform an abandoned rail corridor into 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities and 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace for over 131,000 people, including the patients we serve, and 3,000 businesses. The project connects 13 neighborhoods in a 25-square-mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues, reducing transportation barriers for residents like our patients.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. I also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. I offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Matt Scantland
Founder & CEO





Bricker Graydon LLP
100 South Third Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614.227.2300 Office
www.brickergraydon.com

James F. Flynn
Managing Partner
614.227.8855 Direct Phone
jflynn@brickergraydon.com

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the law firm of Bricker Graydon LLP, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Bricker Graydon LLP is a leading Midwest law firm that provides counsel to political subdivisions, nonprofits, and developers in the area of housing finance. Our current book of business includes assisting a large, institutional nonprofit developer of affording housing in the construction and rehabilitation of housing units in the Linden Neighborhood to be served by this Green Line RAISE capital grant request. The occupants of the +100 units our client is developing, via American Rescue Plan Act funds, will no doubt be served by this linear part asset. We are excited by the interconnectedness of this request with our own client work.

The reach of this project is significant to our communities, our clients, and our people: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.



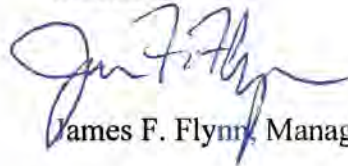
The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative’s Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

We hope that this expression of our support helps convince your support of this important project, but we stand ready to provide additional information and perspective as you may need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or members of our team.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James F. Flynn, Managing Partner

cc: Jeff Harris, Esq., Bricker Graydon

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: **Support for the City of Columbus Linden
Green Line RAISE Application**

February 25, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Burgess & Niple, Inc., I am writing this letter to express our firm's and staff members' strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Burgess & Niple is a national transportation and water/wastewater engineering firm that was founded more than a century ago in Columbus. We have more than 150 employees working in the downtown Franklinton neighborhood of Columbus just to the west of this proposed project.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues. A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

February 25, 2024
Page 2

We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Regards,

Burgess & Niple, Inc.



Mark E. Bernhardt, PE
President & CEO

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio, a NiSource company, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

At Columbia Gas, we value and prioritize building up neighborhoods that we live and work in, and believe projects like these help further neighborhood development.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line can be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,
Luka Papalko

Public Affairs Manager

Columbia Gas of Ohio



February 13, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Capital Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus Crew SC, the nation's first Major League Soccer club, we are writing this letter of support to express our enthusiastic support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant application. This project transforms a seven (7) mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

We work closely with the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department on developing world-class soccer programming for youth and adults, and are proud to be partnering with them to develop a premier soccer facility in the Northland community, the Kilbourne Run Sports Park. Our contribution of \$12.5 million towards this \$30 million dollar sports facility will have a generational impact on the Central Ohio region, and the park lies directly along the Linden Green Line. This creates an incredible tie in of two major projects, both on the same timeline of development.

We would note that the reach of the Green Line is monumental : Over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are located within a 10 minute walk, and 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace will be created. It would also reconnect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways.

The timing of this project is excellent, both for the Linden communities and the region as a whole. Columbus is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the Midwest, and

COLUMBUS CREW
577 W Nationwide Blvd
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**OHIOHEALTH
PERFORMANCE CENTER**
One Black and Gold Blvd
Columbus, OH 43211

LOWER.COM FIELD
96 Columbus Crew Way
Columbus, OH 43215



we are excited to partner with them to bring these game-changing improvements forward. We ask that you consider the urgent challenges faced by this community along this seven miles; and the potential this RAISE grant has project has to help change the trajectory. Please give your fullest consideration to this application!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bezbatchesenko'.

Tim Bezbatchesenko
President & General Manager, Columbus Crew

COLUMBUS CREW
577 W Nationwide Blvd
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**OHIOHEALTH
PERFORMANCE CENTER**
One Black and Gold Blvd
Columbus, OH 43211

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96 Columbus Crew Way
Columbus, OH 43215

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Connect Housing Blocks, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Connect Housing Blocks is a major employer in the North Linden Area. With an investment nearing \$100 million into a vacant and blighted distribution facility, Connect Housing Blocks has built one of the largest modular apartment manufacturing facilities in the world with over 630,000 ft. on 27 acres. Our focus on this specific site was generated by our employment model that upskills individuals from disinvested neighborhoods into the skilled trades while at the same time tearing down barriers to entry. The lack of safe pedestrian and bike traffic corridors that affect this specific area creates barriers to entry for those workers who want to enter the workforce, but do not have safe means of access. The Green Line would be a massive asset to our 85 and growing employee base (on pace to reach 300 by 2026). As we develop multi-family developments of affordable housing in the immediate area of The Green Line, our residents will also be able to benefit from a family friendly pathway to access other areas.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national

significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad J. DeHays', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad J. DeHays, Founder and CEO

Connect Housing Blocks



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. (CMT), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor. At CMT, our engineers, planners and other related design professionals believe that projects like this make our communities more livable and sustainable.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line could be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.

Josh Lockhart, PE
Columbus Office Manager and Associate

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly

Centered in Value



February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Daimler Group, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Ghidotti", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul G. Ghidotti
President
The Daimler Group, Inc.

The Daimler Group, Inc.
1533 Lake Shore Drive
Columbus, OH 43204-4891

ph: 614.488.4424
fx: 614.488.0603

www.daimlergroup.com



2390 Advanced Business Center Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228
o: 614.527.7656
f: 614.527.7489
www.dhdcinc.com

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of DHDC Engineering Consulting we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor. The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues. A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Respectfully Submitted

DHDC Engineering Consulting Services, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Savvas P. Sophocleous".

Savvas P. Sophocleous

Vice President



INNOVATIVE IDEAS
EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN
UNMATCHED CLIENT SERVICE

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of DLZ, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

DLZ is a family- and minority-owned architectural, engineering and construction services firm ranked by Engineering News Record as one of the Top 500 Design Firms (#139) in the United States and the 11th largest in the Midwest. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio with over 850 employees across 7 states, DLZ has been a long-time community partner in Central Ohio and strongly supports the Linden Green Line project. In fact, DLZ is developing Kilbourne Run Sports Park, a multi-generational sports park for the community that will provide a regional tournament destination facility to visitors to Columbus. This sports park, a 67-acre park tagged as one of the city's busiest soccer facilities that hosts over 30,000 participants each year, intersects with part of the Linden Greenline and the Alum Creek Connector trail.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$32 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury

6121 Huntley Rd, Columbus, OH 43229-1003 | OFFICE 614.888.0040 | ONLINE WWW.DLZ.COM

Akron Bellefontaine Bridgeville Burns Harbor Chicago Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus Detroit Fort Wayne Grand Rapids Green Cove Springs
Indianapolis Jacksonville Joliet Kalamazoo Knoxville Lansing Lexington Logan Madison Maumee Melvindale Merrillville Munster
Muskegon Port Huron Saint Joseph San José South Bend Waterford



INNOVATIVE IDEAS
EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN
UNMATCHED CLIENT SERVICE

RAISE Application
Linden Green Line
Page 2 of 2

Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line can be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Ram Rajadhyaksha
Vice President

Scott Campbell, PE
Director of Ohio Transportation

Todd Harkins, PE
Project Manager



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Dynotec, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Dynotec – a longtime local-, state-, and federally-recognized DBE/MBE/SBE firm – has grown by 50% over the last five years and now stands at 46 employees. For us, transportation infrastructure has been and continues to be a vital market, core to our financial well-being and continued growth. And the City of Columbus, in particular, has been the main client for Dynotec during our 34 years serving Central Ohio. The Linden Green Line is a prime example of the kind of project that could assure not only the continued revitalization of the Central Ohio transportation system, but also can buoy the impact and success of many design firms throughout this important region.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Suthanthira "Sutha" Vallipuram, PE, LEED AP BD+C
President/CEO, Dynotec, Inc.

Main: (614) 880-7320 | Direct: (614) 310-1092 | Cell: (614) 634-2051 | Email: suthav@dynotecinc.com

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of EDGE, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

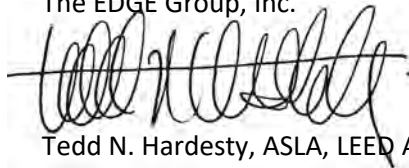
EDGE is a planning, urban design, and landscape architecture firm that has been active in our region for over twenty years. Our staff of over 20 reside in the diverse neighborhoods of the City of Columbus and have actively advocated for alternative modes of transportation, parks and open space, and a network of connectivity that can provide access and recreation to all residents. The Linden Green Line represents the City's best opportunity to create catalytic change in some of our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the highest possible recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Respectfully submitted,
The EDGE Group, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tedd N. Hardesty", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tedd N. Hardesty, ASLA, LEED AP
Principal



Engineers, Surveyors, Planners, Scientists

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of EMH&T, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Doyle-Ahern".

Sandra Doyle-Ahern, MEng
President



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Encova Insurance, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Obrokta, Jr.", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Thomas J. Obrokta, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

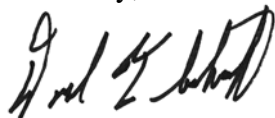
On behalf of Flaherty & Collins Properties we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



David Flaherty

CEO



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of GHD, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

GHD is a global professional services company, that is deeply committed to addressing environmental and social issues and we recognize that people in underrepresented areas need safe access to infrastructure like the Green Line, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic background. The Green Line presents an exciting opportunity for the City of Columbus to create sustainable urban infrastructure with a strong intent for environmental stewardship that will impact a large portion of our community.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project to be open to the public as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line can be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Jason T. Sanson, P.E.
Midwest Water Business Group Leader

Haydocy Law Office LLC

Cory A. Haydocy, Esq.

(614) 284-4250

Cory@Haydocylaw.com

6868 Bowerman St. E, Worthington, OH 43085

February 26, 2024

**The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590**

RE: Columbus Green Line/Mass Transit Support

Dr. Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Columbus is seeking a \$12 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to develop the Linden Green Line, a project that aims to revitalize an abandoned rail line and transform it into a vibrant 7-mile linear park and trail. This project has the potential to significantly enhance the quality of life for more than 131,000 people living within walking and cycling distance, providing much-needed green space and promoting active transportation. I support this project. I support a comprehensive all-of-the-above approach to mass transit in Central Ohio.

The Linden Green Line is not just a local project but also a significant national initiative showcasing how trail infrastructure can bridge communities and address disparities in opportunity. It aligns with broader efforts to improve regional transportation and has the potential to serve as a model for other cities looking to leverage trail infrastructure to connect people and places.

The Greater Linden community has historically faced challenges due to redlining and restrictive covenants, resulting in marginalized and disconnected neighborhoods. The Green Line seeks to transform this area by creating a vibrant linear park and trail that offers increased accessibility and safety for residents. It is part of a larger vision for enhanced regional transportation and smart urban planning, emphasizing people-first infrastructure and collaboration between government, business, and community leaders.

Beyond its immediate impact on the Linden community, the Green Line has the potential to catalyze broader economic development. It can provide impetus for urban infill projects, attract businesses and residents, and enhance property values. By integrating housing and transit planning, Central Ohio can achieve its goals of smart urban development, people-first infrastructure, and sustainable growth.

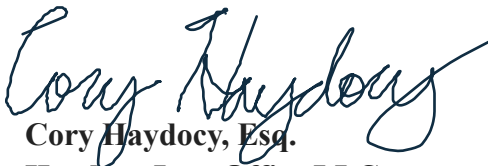
The project also aligns with the need for non-automobile transportation options in the region. By providing alternatives to cars, such as trails, rails, and public transit, Columbus can reduce sprawl, optimize resource allocation, and position itself as a competitive city on the global and national stage.

A comprehensive approach to mass transit is needed in the central Ohio area and we need allies to accomplish the goal of better connecting our communities. A real connection to the national passenger rail network with regular, dependable, and timely service is something our citizens deserve. Norfolk Southern also owes Ohio residents a debt. Their full support for real mass transit reform is a demonstrable public step they can take to right a wrong. It's what a good corporate citizen must do.

Transit delayed is transit denied. Ohio sits in the middle of the great American Megapolis. We deserve to be fully integrated into that mass transit network. The people support this. It is a non-zero sum gain equation. I think this policy is a political winner and should seriously be considered before the next presidential election.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Cory Haydocy, Esq.

Haydocy Law Office LLC

Cory@Haydocylaw.com

(614) 284-4250 messages only



February 16th, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of HNTB, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

HNTB is a national engineering firm that has provided engineering services to the state since 1914. Columbus houses our largest Ohio office, and we seek to work in cities that value public spaces like the Green Line to help create the work life balance for our employees.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity

gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah S. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sarah Lee
HNTB Ohio Office Leader



30 Warren St.
Columbus, OH 43215

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Kaufman Development, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Schueren".

Jessica Schueren
Director of Development



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Mannik & Smith Group, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

With nearly 500 staff in Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia, The Mannik & Smith Group offers a full array of consulting services for both the public and private sectors including; Civil/Structural Design and Permitting, Construction Engineering, Cultural Resources, Environmental, Geotechnical, Landscape Architecture, Program Management and Surveying. With 40 employees in Columbus, we see the Green Line project as a vital step towards improving our community, especially this underserved neighborhood.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lloyd V. MacAdam".

Lloyd V. MacAdam, PE, PS
Transportation Operations Director



McDaniel's Construction Corp., Inc

February 22, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of McDaniel's Construction Corp., Inc. we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Our office is located in the vicinity of this proposed project and would greatly benefit our 45 full time employees. In addition, the Chairman of our company resides in this area and is impacted personally by the additional access this would provide.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,
McDANIEL'S CONSTRUCTION CORP., INC.

Eric J. Girard
President



February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Metro Development, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Metro Development is a prominent real estate development company known for its innovative approach to creating vibrant communities. In Columbus, Ohio, Metro Development has undertaken projects that blend residential, community, and recreational spaces to foster a dynamic and interconnected environment.

Metro's developments often prioritize sustainability, aesthetics, and community engagement, aiming to enhance the quality of life for residents while also contributing positively to the local economy. Metro Development's projects typically feature a mix of housing options, catering to various lifestyles and preferences.

In addition to residential spaces, Metro Development projects in Columbus may include amenities like community walking trails, dog parks, and community facilities, fostering a sense of belonging and providing residents with convenient access to leisure activities.

Overall, Metro Development's endeavors in Columbus likely aim to create cohesive, well-planned neighborhoods that offer residents a high-standard of living and contribute to the overall growth and vitality of the community.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R.S. Giller, III", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

R.S. (Tre') Giller, III
CEO and President

February 15, 2024

MKSK

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of MKSK, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

MKSK is a planning, urban design, and landscape architecture firm based in Columbus, Ohio. We are committed to solving the pressing issues in our cities and communities. We do this by focusing on the interaction between people and place. We build on local strengths to create stronger communities and healthier environments.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,
MKSK, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Overbeck', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Overbeck, Principal

February 15, 2024

MKSK

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of MKSK, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

MKSK is a planning, urban design, and landscape architecture firm based in Columbus, Ohio. We are committed to solving the pressing issues in our cities and communities. We do this by focusing on the interaction between people and place. We build on local strengths to create stronger communities and healthier environments.

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The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,
MKSK, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hermann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" being more prominent than the last name "Hermann".

Chris Hermann, Principal

February 15, 2024

MKSK

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of MKSK, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

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Sincerely,
MKSK, Inc.



Brian P. Kinzelman, Principal

February 15, 2024

MKSK

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of MKSK, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

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Sincerely,
MKSK, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Pongonis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Pongonis, Principal



Moody Nolan
300 Spruce Street, Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43215
614.461.4664
moodynolan.com

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Dept of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Moody Nolan, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

As the largest architectural firm in Central Ohio, we have completed multiple projects in the Linden area to help transform this neighborhood. This grant is critical to continue rebuilding the community.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line will be of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Best,

Karen K Roch, FSMPS
Associate Principal

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of MurphyEpson, Inc, I am writing this letter to convey our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor. This effort will bring continued healing to neighbors and neighborhoods most effected by redlining and restrictive covenants.

MurphyEpson specializes in building community consensus and support for complex public sector initiatives, providing facilitation and public involvement services, and writing and designing communication materials that build the business case for improvements and engage the public. We are a Woman Business Enterprise certified with the City of Columbus with 10 employees dedicated to amplifying the voices in Ohio and creating more community through public infrastructure projects.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable green space; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the opportunity to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity

gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Marie Silver Keister
President & CEO
MurphyEpson, Inc

February 23, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

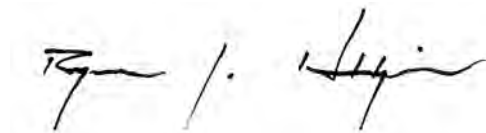
On behalf of NBBJ, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,



Ryan J. Hullinger, Partner

ORANGE BARREL | MEDIA

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 16, 2022

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBUS LINDEN GREEN LINE RAISE APPLICATION

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Orange Barrel Media, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Orange Barrel Media (OBM) pioneers landmark media and smart city technology to improve lives in cities. OBM has been committed to a community-oriented model of media development since its founding in 2004 and is nationally recognized by cities and real estate owners seeking to implement unique media programs that add to the character of urban places. Located in the Franklinton community, more than 50% of our employees are based at our Columbus, Ohio headquarters, just miles from the proposed Linden Green Line Project.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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EAST COAST OFFICE
678 Broadway, 5th Floor,
New York, NY 10012

MIDWEST OFFICE
250 North Hartford Avenue,
Columbus, OH 43222

WEST COAST OFFICE
9165 Sunset Boulevard,
West Hollywood, CA 90069

OBM.COM

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Randall Sistrunk
Orange Barrel Media
Senior Director, Public-Private Partnerships

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590



PO Box 9870
Columbus, OH 43209

614.255.1480 office
614.255.1481 fax

www.pagetechltd.com

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Pagetech Limited, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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PO Box 9870
Columbus, OH 43209

614.255.1480 office
614.255.1481 fax

www.pagetechltd.com

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Sincerely,

John Page

President- CEO

pagetech limited
aero313 | creative studio
614.255.1480 | office
614.255.1481 | fax

PO Box 9870 | Columbus, OH 43209

pagetechltd.com | we do live events!
aero313.com | we do creative!
Rockstar entertainment group | we do promotions!

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Pizzuti Companies, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.


We are a small development company that has called Columbus home since 1976. Our employees live in various areas around our City and having community assets and improved transportation options are elements that are critical to improving the quality of life for our associates and clients.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,
The Pizzuti Companies



James S. Russell
Executive Vice-President



955 Yard Street
Suite 150
Columbus, Ohio 43212

P. 614 586 1500

www.planning-next.com

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Planning NEXT, a community planning firm located in Columbus, Ohio, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

Jamie A. Greene, AIA FAICP
Planning NEXT Principal



RESOURCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

6350 Presidential Gateway
Columbus, OH 43231
P 614.823.4949

An ISO 9001:2015 certified QMS firm

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Resource International, Inc. (Rii) I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Rii, founded in 1973, is a woman-owned business headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. We are a multi-disciplined, professional engineering consulting firm specializing in planning, engineering, construction management and information technology services. Rii employs 160 professionals with 100+ who live and work in the Columbus metropolitan area. This project can positively impact our local employees, their families, and the community as noted below.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,
RESOURCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Farah B. Majidzadeh
CEO and Chairperson



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Ribway Engineering Group, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

Andrew Eribo, PE
President & CEO



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Steiner + Associates we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Yaromir Steiner
Chief Executive Officer



February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Thrive Companies, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Thrive Companies is an urban developer and construction company with over 150 employees that specializes in remediating old brownfields and landfills into transformational mixed-use developments in Columbus. As well, Thrive Companies is a founding supporter of Rapid 5, a central Ohio non-profit focused on creating the largest inter-connected park system in the country. The Green Line fits our vision of a city that helps to connect millions of residents to waterways and greenspace.

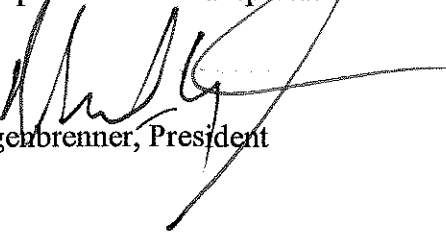
The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also

believe that the Green Line can be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Mark Wagenbrenner, President

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Wj3enterprises LTD, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Wade Jordan CEO
Wj3enterprises LTD
4937 W Broad St STE 202
Columbus Oh 43228



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Woda Cooper Companies, Inc. (“WCCI”), I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus’ \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

WCCI develops, designs, constructs, and manages affordable housing communities. Since its founding in 1990, WCCI has taken a long-term approach to every community it develops and constructs. As of January 1, 2024, the portfolio has approximately 330 communities and 16,000 units operating or under construction. In housing more than 30,000 people today, we have found many of our residents benefit from uniting a community which the Linden Green Line will accomplish.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region’s highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway’s Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative’s Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Woda
Founder



February 19, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of All THAT – Teens Hopeful About Tomorrow we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus’ \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region’s highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway’s Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Danella Hicks
Executive Director

We mentor teenaged youth in academic achievement, life skill development, and career planning to succeed in school and beyond.



2100 Stella Court
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 252-8402
alvis180.org

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Alvis' Support for the City of Columbus, Ohio Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of Alvis, Inc. to express the agency's staunch support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project will transform a 7-mile, inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by the City of Columbus into a regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Alvis is a human services agency that has been turning lives around in Ohio since 1967. We are dedicated to serving the underserved and often forgotten members of our community by providing reentry, behavioral health treatment & recovery housing, workforce development, and family & children's services. We also have an Intermediate Care Facility, supported living and behavior support services for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Transportation and affordable housing are two of the largest challenges faced by our clients and this project would be transformative. This massive undertaking includes 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities and 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace. It also provides connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways and over 9 affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor. The Green Line will serve an estimated 131,000 or more people and 3,000 businesses.

The Linden Green Line will connect 13 neighborhoods over 25 square miles that have been decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. It will provide better and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. Finally, it provides direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, which is in the midst of a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, One Linden Plan and LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.

The Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 Initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for both pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in Columbus. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance that shows how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

Alvis is proud to be a partner with the City of Columbus on multiple projects, such as workforce development and reentry services. We know the Linden Green Line will be a tremendous asset for the people we serve, employers, community members, and the City of Columbus as a whole. I am pleased to whole heartedly offer the highest recommendation that the U.S. Department of Transportation will fund the Linden Green Line. If you have any questions, please contact me at Denise.Robinson@alvis180.org.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Robinson
President and CEO, Alvis, Inc.
108th President, American Correctional Association





February 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Buckeye Ranch, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Buckeye Ranch is a community mental and behavioral health organization based in Franklin County, Ohio that provides trauma informed, family-centered care, utilizing evidence-informed and evidence-based interventions. Our comprehensive continuum of care includes child-welfare, traditional and treatment foster care, transitional-aged youth support and independent living, education, school and community-based services, residential mental health treatment, and care coordination services.

Since being founded in 1961 by the Women's Juvenile Service Board, The Buckeye Ranch has grown in response to community need. Today, we are a trusted community partner addressing the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families. Annually, we serve over 5,000 children and families, supported by a team of approximately 550 employees. This visionary initiative aligns well with our mission to restore hope and provide healing to youth and families in our community. By creating access to resources, fostering support networks, and providing space for healthy outdoor activities, we're nurturing the well-being of our community. We recognize that mental health and physical health are intertwined, and this project will leave a lasting impact on the lives we touch.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

2865 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43204

195 Union Street
Suite B-3
Newark, OH 43055

5665 Hoover Road
Grove City, OH 43123

110 Boggs Lane
Suite 270
Springdale, OH 45246

4653 E. Main Street
Whitehall, OH 43213



The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Vickie Thompson-Sandy
President & CEO
The Buckeye Ranch

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio, we express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a multi-purpose regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

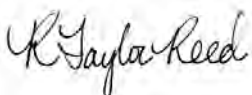
Charitable Pharmacy has been in existence since 2010, providing free prescription medications to vulnerable residents of the community who are unable to afford costly medicines needed to manage chronic conditions such as heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, pulmonary disease and more. Since 2010, **962,170 thirty-day fills of free medications** valued at \$85 million have been dispensed. At a cumulative 114,687 one-on-one patient visits, our clinical pharmacists have helped educate our neighbors about how best to use their medicines and empowered them with resources to overcome social determinants of health barriers and achieve healthier lifestyles. However, the need for our services continues as the cost of many commonly-prescribed pharmaceuticals continues to increase, many neighbors are uninsured or underinsured, and daily living expenses are high – and the poverty rate in Columbus is 20.4%.

An updated transportation structure such as this Green Line **would open pathways for other vulnerable residents** of Columbus, Ohio to the **life-changing and no-cost services** provided by Charitable Pharmacy. This is especially relevant as one of our two pharmacies is located in Linden – and this proposed Green Line would **create easier access to our services for countless more residents along this corridor**, including into Northland – home to one of the largest populations of new American citizens in Columbus, including thousands of refugees from Nepal, Somalia, and Bhutan.

The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. In addition to other major focal points of this project provided to USDOT by the city of Columbus, there are several affordable housing projects currently in development along this corridor – and the Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool. As Charitable Pharmacy's only eligibility criteria is that patients are uninsured, underinsured and income at 200% or below of Federal Poverty Level, an obvious conclusion is that **higher numbers of vulnerable residents of Columbus** could avail themselves of our services – and improve and maintain their health through **access to not only available transportation, but free necessary medications and other services we provide to thousands of patients.**

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



R. Taylor Reed, PharmD
Executive Director



CLINTONVILLE • BEECHWOLD
COMMUNITY RESOURCES CENTER

3222 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43202
www.clintonvilleCRC.org
614-268-3539

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Andy Hall
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Village in the Ville Director

Nicole Brumley &
Stephanie Shildt
Development

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. It connects 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. It would also provide safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. It also provides connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and 9 affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

It is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Robyn Brown, LISW-S
Associate Director
Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center



**Columbus
Mennonite
Church**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Joel Miller

Pastor

joel@columbusmennonite.org

Mark Rupp

Pastor of Christian Formation

mark@columbusmennonite.org

35 Oakland Park Ave.

Columbus, OH 43214

614-784-9002

office@columbusmennonite.org

www.columbusmennonite.org

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus Mennonite Church, Columbus, Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joel Miller



Patrick Losinski, CEO

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), I write in support of the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

CML has operated a branch in the Linden community since 1928, and we are thrilled that the location of today's Linden Branch is located along the proposed Green Line corridor. The branch, which is set to undergo a \$19.1 million renovation and expansion later this year, annually welcomes over 131,000 customers. This includes over 400 sessions with young learners building literacy skills through our Reading Buddies program and over 3,500 school help sessions with K-12 students. The Green Line corridor will provide a safe transportation pathway to the library for our community, and especially for the children and teens who most often arrive at the library on foot or on a bicycle.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to not just the library but also 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. It seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities –

Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

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

Patrick Losinski



Columbus
Urban League

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Columbus Urban League, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

Stephanie Hightower
President & CEO

**COMMUNITY
HOUSING
NETWORK**

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:


On behalf of Community Housing Network, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,


Samantha Shuler
Chief Executive Officer



CompDrug

A Dustin Mets, CEO
dmets@compdrug.org

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of CompDrug, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

CompDrug, based in Columbus, is a large opiate treatment provider (OTP) specializing in the treatment of opioid use disorder. CompDrug's services include medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder offered in conjunction with counseling at the outpatient, intensive outpatient, and partial hospitalization program level. CompDrug also provides co-management of mental health disorders, case management, care coordination, and specialized programming for pregnant and newly parenting women. CompDrug offers prevention programming for adults, distribution of Narcan for overdose prevention, medication management for Seniors, and a youth prevention program called Youth to Youth.

A large percentage of our patients use the COTA bus system to get to their treatment and other necessary appointments on time every day. The proposed Linden Green Line will not only ensure that our patients arrive at their CompDrug appointments on time but will also allow them easy access to the other resources needed to succeed in recovery. These include daycare centers, other medical providers, work, affordable housing, and food.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's

Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Mets', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dustin Mets
Chief Executive Officer
CompDrug

20 February 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Creative Housing | Creative Renovations, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Directions for Youth & Families, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Directions for Youth & Families is a nonprofit mental health agency that serves over 6,000 youth and families in Franklin County. We also have two after-school centers. Transportation is a huge challenge for those residing in impoverished areas. Access to safe spaces for community gatherings, walks, and social gatherings is paramount in a movement towards community restoration.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,
Duane Casares, CEO
Directions for Youth & Families



Investing in the growth
of small business

1655 Old Leonard Avenue
Columbus, OH 43219
Main 614 559 0115

February 22, 2024

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

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI), we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Fireman", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Fireman
President and General Counsel





February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

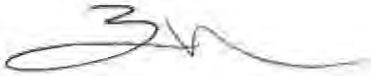
Our organization's mission is to elevate quality of life and connect the community through educational, cultural and social experiences. The Green Line is in line with our mission; connecting the Linden Community and positively impacting the quality of life of its residents through better access to parks and public resources.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Harkey', with a long, sweeping underline.

Bruce A. Harkey
President & CEO



Celebrating 125 years

☎ (614) 294-5476
✉ info@godmanguild.org
📍 P.O. Box 8100,
Columbus, OH 43201



February 26, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line
RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Godman Guild Association, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

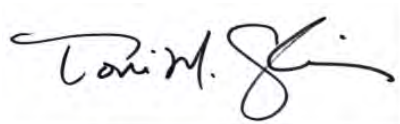
The Godman Guild Association is a 125-year-old social service nonprofit that has supported the Columbus community in growing and securing the needs of those most vulnerable with the mission to provide programs that enhance the social and economic mobility of individuals and families in Central Ohio. Linden is one the neighborhoods in the City of Columbus where a large portion of our clients reside and face the harshest realities with the least access and resources.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni M. Cunningham", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Toni M. Cunningham
President & CEO
Godman Guild Association



February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Harmony Project Production, Inc., we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses

are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25-square-mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green

Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformations jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line can be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy D. Fowler Sr.', is written over a light blue circular watermark that contains the word 'HARMONY'.

Troy D. Fowler Sr.
Director of Operations



Huckleberry House, Inc. | 1421 Hamlet Street | Columbus, Ohio 43201 | 614.294.8097 | Fax 614.294.6109

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Huckleberry House, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Huckleberry House shelters, supports, and guides youth navigating challenges. In addition to a teen crisis shelter, youth outreach program, and counseling services, we have a range of housing programs for 18-14 year olds across Columbus. One of our housing locations, Kenmore Square, is adjacent to that abandoned railroad. Not only do we provide housing at Kenmore Square, but we also provide life skills training and mental health services – including wellness and parenting mentorship. The Green Line and access to transportation will help our residents gain access to jobs, grocery stores, medical services, and opportunities for healthful recreation.

The 54 residents and their children would benefit from the 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace. Our youth would join the 131,000 people served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Sonya Thesing
Executive Director



I Am Boundless, Inc.
445 E. Dublin Granville Road
Worthington, OH 43085
614-844-3800
iamboundless.org

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of I Am Boundless Inc., I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

For over 40 years, I Am Boundless has proudly provided health and humans services to thousands of Ohio residents and their families. Founded in 1980 as Franklin County Residential Services, Boundless has grown from a modest, centralized organization into a dynamic family of nonprofits engaged with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and behavioral health communities across the state. From residential support and vocational habilitation to primary care and behavioral health, our approach to whole-person care celebrates each individual and empowers them to become active participants in the communities where they live, work, and play. Today, Boundless provides services to over 5000 individuals and employs over 2200 people. This proposed community space would be a tremendous community benefit for the hundreds of our employees, and individuals served, who reside within Columbus and its surrounding areas.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Jen Riha

Jen Riha,
Chief Strategy Officer

February 26th, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of IMPACT Community Action, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

At IMPACT Community Action, our mission is "to fight poverty by providing hope-inspiring help and real opportunities for self-sufficiency." Access to safe and reliable transportation options is a common barrier for the individuals and families we serve. The Green Line project will provide increased accessibility to neighborhood resources, local greenspaces and provide both bikeable and walkable transportation options for those who may not have access to private vehicles. Access to reliable transportation is a fundamental aspect of ensuring that all members of the community have equal opportunities to thrive and access essential services regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. Investing in transportation infrastructure yields long-term benefits for the community, including improved quality of life, economic vitality and environmental sustainability. By securing a transportation grant for the Green Line project, we can lay the groundwork for a more accessible, interconnected and vibrant community both now and in the future.

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance"

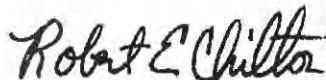
~Senator Robert Kennedy, 1966

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Sincerely,



Robert "Bo" Chilton
Chief Executive Officer
(614) 453-1698
bchilton@impactca.org

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance"

~Senator Robert Kennedy, 1966



Karen B. Mozenter
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
(RAISE) Grant for the Linden Green Line

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Columbus is applying for a \$12 million United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the Linden Green Line.

Jewish Family Services has served the Central Ohio community since 1908. Our mission is to help individuals and families achieve economic self-sufficiency and emotional stability. The agency was founded by the Jewish community and our work is rooted in Jewish values, but we serve people of all races, ethnicities, and religions, and from all economic circumstances. Most of our clients are from low-income households and under-resourced communities, including many who would benefit from RAISE Linden Green Line Project.

For decades, the Greater Linden community was devastated by the impacts of redlining and restrictive covenants, leading to marginalized and disconnected neighborhoods, few protected pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and recognition as one of the city's highest incidence areas for pedestrian and cyclist crashes. The Green Line will transform an abandoned rail line into a vibrant seven (7) mile 58-acre linear park and trail, accessible to over 131,000 people who live within minutes of walking and cycling distance.

The Greenways will also be an integral part of the LinkUS and Central Ohio Greenways' efforts to improve the access and quality of our regional transportation network. The Green Line has the potential to be one of the most impactful infrastructure projects in our region,

while also serving as a local project of national significance in demonstrating how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps.

As a partner in this effort, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the City of Columbus throughout the development of the proposed activities. We look forward to seeing the benefits it will provide for the Linden community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Mozenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Karen Mozenter
Chief Executive Officer



LifeCare Alliance
1699 West Mound Street
Columbus, OH 43223

lifecarealliance.org
614.278.3130

› Nutrition Services
› Health Services
› Support Services

President and CEO
Charles W. Gehring

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Timothy O. Wiechers, JD
Randolph C. Wiseman, JD

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of LifeCare Alliance, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

LifeCare Alliance provides Nutrition, Health, and Support services to 30,000 Ohioans annually. With an Alliance of 276 staff members and 7,800 volunteers, we restore stability and self-reliance to people facing challenges stemming from medical conditions, disabilities, or aging in place. We support the benefits the Green Line brings to our community and clients.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Gehring, President and CEO

**Being
There
Matters™**



Lower Lights

Christian Health Center

February 19, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Lower Lights Christian Health Center, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Lower Lights Christian Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing whole person care to over 150,000 patients in Central Ohio. We have a health center in the heart of the Linden Community where we serve many uninsured and underserved patients who would really benefit from access to outdoor fitness opportunities and safe park access available via the Linden Green Line.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and

Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Cloud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Cloud, CEO
Lower Lights Christian Health Center



MARYHAVEN®

Helping People Restore Their Lives®

Addiction Recovery and Mental Health Services

www.maryhaven.com

February 16, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Maryhaven, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Oyauma Garrison, President & CEO



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**BOARD
OF TRUSTEES**

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Economic Development Division

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TAMMY McCONNAGHEY
Bread Financial

MIKE McCOY
Bob Evans Foods

TAUANA McDONALD
Mt. Carmel Hospital - Grove City

BRAD McLEAN
InnoSource

LACEY PICAZO
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DAMON PORTER
Grange Insurance

RICH ROSEN
Indigo Strategies

BRIAN SHERRICK
American Electric Power

JIM WEEAST
OhioHealth

STAFF
MATT HABASH
President & CEO

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Mid-Ohio Food Collective, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

MOFC provides efficient, effective ways for hungry people to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. Implementing the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request will greatly benefit our food insecure customers who currently lack reliable transportation and will improve the opportunity gaps in our community.

The Green Line project is transformative, extending 7 miles of cyclist and pedestrian pathways, adding 58 acres of greenspace, and serving over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses across 13 neighborhoods. This initiative revitalizes areas affected by historical redlining, connecting communities to schools, parks, and centers, while being a priority in regional development plans. It offers direct access to significant investments like the Kilbourne Run Sports Park and regional greenways, along with supporting affordable housing developments.

The project area, encompassing sixteen census tracts with 75% recognized as disadvantaged, addresses critical safety concerns along key roadways. By improving access and safety, the Green Line directly confronts these challenges, promoting a more connected and equitable community.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our city. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Habash



foodbank | farm | farmacy | kitchen | market



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of NAMI Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

We are proud that we are the largest mental health advocacy organization in the country representing over 500,000 Ohio citizens and their families whose lives have been invaded by mental illness. NAMI Ohio has 38 affiliates throughout Ohio representing all 88 counties. Access to livable space promotes not just good physical health, but also mental health.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,


Luke Russell, Executive Director

NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

HONOR ★ CONNECT ★ INSPIRE ★ EDUCATE

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

At the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, our mission is to honor and positively impact the lives of Veterans, their families, and our communities through sharing the Veteran experience. We Honor, Connect, Inspire, and Educate to create national networks that empower and provide opportunities for Veterans. As a cultural destination in Columbus, we support the Green Line project.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL FERRITER

Lt. Gen., U.S. Army, (Retired)
President and CEO



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

Timothy C. Robinson, Chief Executive Officer

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Capital Grant Application

Honorable Buttigieg,

On behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital, we are writing this letter of support to express our enthusiastic support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant application. This project transforms a seven (7) mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

As a pediatric healthcare provider, Nationwide Children's Hospital is intimately familiar with the role that access to green space plays in the health of our community. Whether supporting healthy lifestyles via access to safe walking and riding space, exposure to nature, which is clinically proven to improve mental health, or allowing for community engagement, the Greenway will be transformative to quality of life in Linden.

In addition, this Greenway compliments Nationwide Children's \$150M investment in housing, healthcare and economic stability in the Linden community. Based on our Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families program, NCH has already begun the work on affordable housing, providing over 50 units of home improvement, affordable scattered site rentals and home ownership homes since 2021. Moreover, we have offered job training, school health centers and a fresh food market within 1 mile of the proposed Linden Green Line.

The timing of this project is excellent, both for the Linden communities and the region as a whole. Columbus is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the Midwest, and we are excited to partner with the city to bring this improvement forward. We ask that you consider the urgent challenges faced by this community along this seven miles; and the potential this RAISE grant has project has to help change the trajectory. Please give your fullest consideration to this application!

Thank you in advance for your support of the city in this effort. It is truly transformational to the future of our city and our children.

Best,

Tim Robinson
CEO
Nationwide Children's Hospital



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Netcare Corporation, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

We are a 52-year-old community mental health center that employs 225 and serves thousands of patients annually. Most have multiple factors of disadvantage and would be among those who would benefit most from a project like this.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Stroh".

Brian Stroh, MD – CEO and Medical Director



Ohio Environmental Council

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write this letter on behalf of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The OEC is a 501(c)(3) public interest environmental nonprofit dedicated to securing healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. We are headquartered in Columbus, and the City's Linden Green Line will provide significant direct benefits to our members, numerous local communities, the City, and the Central Ohio region.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Nathan Johnson
Senior Attorney, Land & Water
Ohio Environmental Council
1145 Chesapeake Ave., STE I
Columbus, OH 43212
NJohnson@theOEC.org



February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of OhioHealth, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

OhioHealth is a 15-hospital health care system that has served the central Ohio community since 1891. We are a family of 38,000 associates, physicians, and volunteers with over 50 ambulatory sites, hospice, home-health, and other health services spanning a 47-county area throughout Ohio. Our footprint includes hospitals in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state.

We are headquartered in the City of Columbus and one of the central Ohio region's largest employers.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative.

As an integral pillar of the central Ohio community – as an employer, a provider of healthcare, and a steadfast neighborhood partner – OhioHealth believes the Linden Green Line project aligns with our mission to improve the health of those we serve.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national



significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawna B. Davis".

Shawna B. Davis
Vice President, External Affairs & Foundation Operations



Midwest Regional Office
506 S. High St., Suite 8
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
614.837.6782

www.railstotrails.org
www.TrailLink.com

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Rails to Trails Conservancy we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Rails to Trails Conservancy is the nation's largest trail organization with more than a million supporters. We're building a nation connected by trails-reimagining public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike and be active outdoors. RTC has been active in Central Ohio active transportation and trail development for three decades. This project does more to address equitable non-motorized transportation development than any single project in all of that time. It is the right project at the right time and RAISE is the right program to make this happen. The proven track record that the City of Columbus has on delivering world class projects is impeccable. This project needs the support of USDOT and the time is now.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

Eric Oberg
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Midwest Regional Director

National Headquarters: 2121 Ward Court, NW, 5th Floor / Washington, DC 20037
tel 202.331.9696 / fax 202.223.9257

Recycled Paper



February 15, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Southeast Healthcare, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,



Bill Lee
President and CEO

Belmont, Harrison &
Monroe Counties
St. Clairsville
68353 Bannock Road
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740.695.9344

Carroll County
Carrollton
783 Jones Avenue
Carrollton, OH 44615
330.627.3954

Delaware County
Delaware Commerce Park
824 Bowtown Road
Delaware, OH 43015
740.695.7795

Franklin County
Clintonville
3770 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43214
614.294.7117

Downtown Columbus
16 W. Long Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614.225.0990

Franklinton
524 B.W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614.224.4850

Friends of the Homeless
924 E. Main Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205
614.360.0251

Merion Village
1455 S. 4th Street
Columbus, OH 43207
614.444.0800

Morrow County
The Meadow Center
950 Meadow Drive, Suite A
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338
419.949.2000

Tuscarawas County
New Philadelphia
344 West High Avenue
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
330.339.7850

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

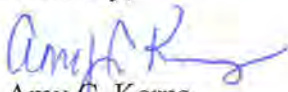
On behalf of St. Stephen's Community House, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Amy C. Kerns
St. Stephen's Community House
Director of Neighborhood Services

1500 E. 17th Ave. Columbus, OH 43219 | Phone: 614.294.6347 | Fax: 614.294.0258



Phil Baum
Grange Insurance

Stephanie Chester
Wells Fargo

Heather Flourney
JPMorgan Chase

Natalie Furniss
Nationwide
Insurance

Gunnar Gode
NiSource, Inc.

Mary Lou Hittle
Independent

Meg Kelley
White Castle

Matt McClellan
Miles-McClellan

Terry O'Connell
Board Member
Emeritus

Deanna Springs
Independent

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Star House we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a seven-mile, inner city abandoned rail corridor, recently acquired by Columbus, into a transformative, regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Star House partners with teens and young adults as they exit homelessness by offering immediate access to safety and resources via a 24/7 drop-in center, as well as housing with on-site access to community and resources. Our team of about 50 employees served 1,457 individuals in 2023, up from 819 in 2021. Green Line would significantly improve mobility for our team and the young people we serve, offering improved transit opportunities for important job interviews and employment.

The reach of this project is monumental: seven miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues. A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and help close opportunity gaps. Thank you for considering supporting the Linden Green Line.

Warmly,

Ann Bischoff

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Women's Fund of Central Ohio, I am writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Kelley Griesmer

Kelley Griesmer, President & CEO



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the YMCA of Central Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Tony Collins
President & CEO, YMCA of Central Ohio

Board of Trustees

President & CEO

Elizabeth C. Brown

Chair

Rebecca Butler

Secretary

Shawna Davis

Chair- Elect

Erika Clark Jones

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Cary Hanosek, Emeritus

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of YWCA Columbus, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Brown
President & CEO



Angela Chapman, Ed.D.
Superintendent/CEO

270 East State Street | Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 365-5000 | Fax: (614) 365-5689
superintendent@columbus.k12.oh.us

Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus City Schools, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Angela Chapman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Angela Chapman
Superintendent/CEO



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of **Columbus College of Art & Design (CCAD)**, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor. CCAD's downtown campus of 1,000 students is located near South Linden and the Green Line project which will provide a safe and accessible way for our students and employees to commute and connect with recreation opportunities.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Chris R. Mundell
Vice President for Institutional Engagement
Columbus College of Art & Design

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus State Community College, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Safe, healthy and accessible pathways like the Linden Green Line are critical for our students, enabling them to access education, job opportunities and community resources. Columbus State is our region's most diverse higher education institution, serving more than 40,000 students annually. The college is also the anchor instruction for the Columbus Workforce Hub, as designated by the White House in May 2023. Through the Workforce Hub process, we have been pleased to connect with representatives of the Department of Transportation as well as leaders in the departments of Education, Commerce, Energy, and Labor to align federal resources and regional priorities.

The reach of the Linden Green Line is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses. The Green Line would provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25-square-mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants.

The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by 16 census tracts, of which 12 (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and

DAVID T. HARRISON Ph.D. PRESIDENT

Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues. Columbus State is about 2 miles from the southern end of the Green Line, and our campus sits along the Cleveland Avenue opportunity corridor.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.T. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

David T. Harrison
President

DTH:vlh

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Franklin University, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Bill Chan
Senior Vice President, Strategic Alliances



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Ohio State University, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Respectfully,

Amanda Hoffsis
Vice President

Planning, Architecture and Real Estate | Administration & Planning
(614) 292-5856 Office | hoffsis.4@osu.edu | pare.osu.edu



February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is written in strong support of the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. For decades, the Greater Linden community has been devastated by the impacts of redlining and restrictive covenants leading to marginalized and disconnected neighborhoods. With very few protected pedestrian and bicycle facilities, this community has been recognized as having one of the City's highest incidence areas for pedestrian and cyclist crashes.

This project would transform a seven-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor. It would provide a safe, accessible, and healthy way for Linden and Northland residents to move throughout their community and the entire Columbus region. By removing a barrier to their movement by foot and bike, neighbors will be able to connect and move across the Green Line's corridor, uniting a community and providing an anchoring point of infrastructure for the communities' growth and opportunity.

The Ohio State University is an urban land grant university centrally located in the City of Columbus and contiguous to the Linden neighborhood. We are the fifth largest public university in the nation comprised of 60,000 students and 40,000 faculty and staff. The Green Line is an important mobility opportunity for our students and faculty who work and volunteer in schools and community organizations in the Linden community. More importantly, The Green Line will assist in increasing mobility options for staff who live in the Linden Community to not only get to and from work but also provide access to parks and trails for their recreation.

The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City and a RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. We believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We respectfully offer the highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

Stacy Rastauskas
Vice President of Government Affairs



American Council of Engineering Companies
of Ohio

February 21, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of ACEC Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Easterday". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Beth Easterday
President

1650 LAKE SHORE DRIVE, SUITE 200
COLUMBUS, OH 43204
T 614-487-8844 F 614-487-8841
WWW.ACECOHIO.ORG



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of AIA Columbus, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

As Columbus becomes the fastest growing city in the U.S., the urgent need for transportation infrastructure is undeniable. Our organization, with its growing membership of 725 architects and designers, is dedicated to creating better living, working, and recreational spaces, especially in underserved areas, like Linden.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses served. The Linden Green Line would connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25-square-mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants and would provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. This project is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan, and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. The Green Line seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew, as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways, and over nine affordable housing projects currently in development along the corridor.

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The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line can be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Ewvaraye". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hannah Ewvaraye
President



CENTRAL OHIO LABOR COUNCIL

AFL-CIO

4150 EAST MAIN STREET, 1ST FLOOR, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43213

Phone [REDACTED] 20

614-607-0151

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February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO has over 80 different unions that fall under our umbrella. We are democratically elected bodies dedicated to representing the interests of working people at the state and local level. We mobilize our members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice and we strive daily to vanquish oppression and make our communities better for all people.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

BE UNION-BUY UNION-LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL



CENTRAL OHIO LABOR COUNCIL

AFL-CIO

4150 EAST MAIN STREET, 1ST FLOOR, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43213
Phone 614-257-1920

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie L. Shumaker".

Jamie Shumaker
Executive Director, Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO

BE UNION-BUY UNION-LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL



Columbus Building Trades Council

www.ColumbusConstruction.org

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council is comprised of 22 affiliated unions representing 18,000 members in Columbus and Central Ohio. We currently have 9 projects of \$1 Billion or more and have a total \$160 Billion in construction in our region. Columbus is the 2nd fastest growing city in the United States and Central Ohio's population is projected to grow by 1 million by 2035. This is why it's imperative that we continue to invest in our infrastructure.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental

939 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 231, Columbus, Ohio 43212 • (614) 221-7171

Columbus / Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council



Columbus Building Trades Council

www.ColumbusConstruction.org

Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Dorsey Hager, Jr.
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

939 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 231, Columbus, Ohio 43212 • (614) 221-7171

Columbus / Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council





**COLUMBUS
REALTORS®**
www.COLUMBUSREALTORS.com

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registered mark
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strict Code of Ethics
as a member of the
National Association
of REALTORS®*

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Columbus REALTORS®, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7-mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Founded in 1908, Columbus REALTORS® is a professional trade association comprised of over 9,400 real estate professionals engaged in residential sales and leasing, commercial sales and leasing, property management, appraisal, consultation, real estate syndication, land development, and more. Infrastructure improvements have been shown to enhance property values by creating livable communities and business districts. Poorly maintained streets and traffic congestion in an area impose extra costs throughout the local economy. Columbus REALTORS Believe that

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformations jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues. A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,
Brent Swander, RCE
Chief Executive Officer, Columbus REALTORS®

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

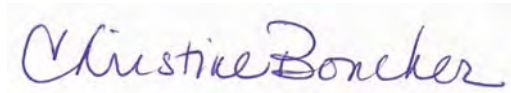
On behalf of Columbus Region Logistics Council with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Boucher". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Christine Boucher
Director, Columbus Region Logistics Council
with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce

NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

February 23, 2024
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of NAIOP Central Ohio, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

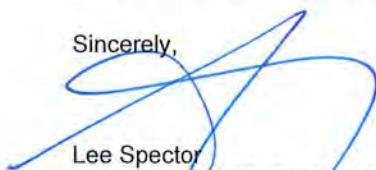
NAIOP Central Ohio is the premier professional association of developers and owners of industrial, office and related commercial real estate in Central Ohio.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.

A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line has the ability to be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,



Lee Spector
President, NAIOP Central Ohio Chapter

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Lee Spector
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President-elect

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DebbieLee Dougherty, CAE
Executive Director



February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance (ORHA) we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

The Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance represents Ohio's restaurant, hospitality and foodservice industry with more than 520,000 hardworking Ohio citizens supporting more than 23,000 individual hospitality locations. ORHA is pleased to partner with the City of Columbus on the strategic Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative for increased equitable access for all.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

The Green Line is surrounded by sixteen census tracts, of which twelve (75%) are identified as disadvantaged by the Justice40 initiative's Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The two major roadways through these communities – Cleveland Avenue and Westerville Road – are both on the High Injury Network, and pose significant safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project directly addresses these issues.



A RAISE capital grant will allow this project the ability to open as early as 2028. The Linden Green Line has the potential to be one of the most important and impactful infrastructure projects in our City. We also believe that the Green Line can be a project of national significance in showing how trail infrastructure can connect communities and close opportunity gaps. We offer the possible highest recommendation for the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the Linden Green Line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Barker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John D. Barker,
President & Chief Executive Officer

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Northland Area Business Association, we are writing this letter to express our strong support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant request. This project transforms a 7 mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

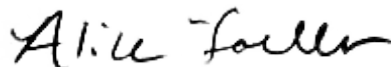
The Northland Area Business Association is a local chamber of commerce serving an area of 25 square miles with a population of 125,000 people. We support initiatives that add to the reputation and assets of the Northland region.

The reach of this project is monumental: 7 miles of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities; 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace; and over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are served by the Green Line. The project would also connect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants. The Green Line would also provide improved and safer access to 19 schools, 4 community centers, and 10 parks. The Green Line is identified as one of our region's highest priorities in the Central Ohio Greenway's Trail Vision Plan, the One Linden Plan and the LinkUS growth and mobility initiative. And it seamlessly puts in place direct access to Kilbourne Run Sports Park, now undergoing a \$30 million transformation jointly sponsored by the City of Columbus and Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew; as well as connectivity to 135 miles of regional greenways; and over nine affordable housing projects now in development along the corridor.

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Sincerely,



Alice Foeller, President,
Northland Area Business Association

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the City of Columbus Linden Green Line RAISE Capital Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Northland Community Council, we are writing this letter of support to express our enthusiastic support for the City of Columbus' \$12 million Linden Green Line RAISE capital grant application. This project transforms a seven (7) mile inner city abandoned rail corridor recently acquired by Columbus into a transformative regional linear park and active transportation corridor.

Our Council represents over 135,000 residents living in over 25 neighborhoods around the Green Line. We cannot overstate the need for improved and safe ways to walk, cycle, and get to key destinations that our residents want to access. This project goes right to the heart of what we've been asking for: more off-street active transportation, more greenspace, more non-motorized ways for families to get to jobs, parks, schools, and events. Our area is facing rapid development and all the challenges that come with it, and it sure would help to bring along a project like this to ease the stress we face with unsafe walking and biking access. Seeing a new Kilbourne Run Sports Park coming on line is a huge investment for Northland. We'd like to be able to use the Green Line to travel to it. It will have a generational impact in our community.

We would note that the reach of the Green Line is monumental : Over 131,000 people and 3,000 businesses are located within a 10 minute walk, and 58 acres of new walkable, bikeable, and playable greenspace will be created. It would also reconnect 13 neighborhoods in a 25 square mile area that was decimated by redlining and restrictive covenants.

The timing of this project is excellent, both for the Linden and Northland communities, and the region as a whole. Columbus is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the Midwest, and we ask that you consider the urgent challenges faced by our community along this seven miles; and the potential this RAISE grant has project has to help change the trajectory. Please give your fullest consideration to this application!

Sincerely,



Alicia Ward
Northland Community Council President