



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Mike DeWine, Governor Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director

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October 3, 2022

Faith Hall
Grant Lead for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: City of Cincinnati Fort Washington Way Reconnecting Communities Application

Dear Ms. Hall:

The Ohio Department of Transportation is pleased to support the City of Cincinnati's Bridging the Gap: Capping Fort Washington Way planning application for the FY22 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.

Cincinnati was founded in 1819 along the banks of the Ohio River, which served Cincinnati well as the City boomed into a vital port city, connecting the east to the west. However, a decision was made in the mid-20th century to route Fort Washington Way - a multi-lane highway - between Cincinnati's Central Business District and the riverfront, creating a broad physical barrier that separates Cincinnati from their riverfront.

Over the last 25 years, Cincinnati's long-term vision to reconnect the city to this vital public resource has led to an incredible revitalization of the riverfront into a regional destination for entertainment and recreation.

The City of Cincinnati - in close partnership with Hamilton County - will use these planning funds to advance engineering of the physical capping structure, to plan the park space with community involvement, and to ensure that the streets that surround the future public space are designed to promote safe access for all. This will build upon the \$10 million in investment that the City - along with its public and private partners - put into the foundations that were built into the reconstructed Fort Washington Way to support this future use of the space above the highway.

I respectfully request consideration of this beneficial project for the citizens of Ohio.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Marchbanks".

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D.
Director