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

April 28, 2016

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The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Cleveland Metroparks Re-connecting Cleveland TIGER Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of Cleveland Metroparks' *Re-Connecting Cleveland: Pathway to Opportunities* application for the USDOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) Grant. Cleveland Metroparks is the lead applicant for a partnership including the Trust for Public Land, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and LAND Studio, bringing a variety of stakeholders together for critical investments in Cleveland's alternative transportation network.

Re-Connecting Cleveland is an innovative project that will help complete and link several critical regional bike and pedestrian trails, including the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway and other critical trails. The Wendy Park Bridge and the Redline Greenway in particular would provide vastly better access to Wendy Park, Edgewater Park, and downtown Cleveland as well as new job and service opportunities. These project elements represent an opportunity to correct decades of isolation, reduced property values and disparity in area neighborhoods by overcoming transportation barriers that have severely impacted resident mobility, access to employment, educational opportunities and outdoor recreation.

Thank you for consideration of this request. Re-Connecting Cleveland will help stabilize local neighborhoods, provide convenient and low-cost transportation options, and generate opportunities for economic re-investment. It will also provide city residents with access to jobs, public transportation and two major green space venues which have been inaccessible for decades – the Lake Erie shoreline and the Cuyahoga River. If you have any questions, please contact my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-7032.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress