



# Support Letters

**RAISE Grant Application**

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# The Ability Center

March 22, 2022

**THE ABILITY CENTER**  
5605 MONROE STREET  
SYLVANIA, OH 43560  
419.885.5733

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**BRYAN SATELLITE OFFICE**  
1425 EAST HIGH STREET  
SUITE 108  
BRYAN, OH 43506  
419.633.1400

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. Having joined city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved with the development of this application, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during our community conversations. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the strategic plan and vision that has been agreed upon and can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

[abilitycenter.org](http://abilitycenter.org)

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo is a Center for Independent Living, a consumer-controlled, cross-disability non-for-profit organization that seeks to make our community the most disability-friendly in the nation. We know first-hand that improvements to sidewalks and the public right of way are key to increasing the accessibility of neighborhoods in Toledo and encouraging independence. We look forward to continuing to assist the City of Toledo in improving pedestrian connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods, including for people with disabilities, including with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures.

I am hopeful that our thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Stuart James  
Executive Director



**THE ARTS COMMISSION**  
INSPIRING A VIBRANT TOLEDO

1838 Parkwood Avenue, Suite 120  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419-254-ARTS (2787)  
[theartscommission.org](http://theartscommission.org)

April 4, 2022

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Kyle Sword  
Josh Thurston  
Joe Wagner  
Mechelle Zarou  
Gail Zimmerman  
Robert Zollweg

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. As a representative of The Arts Commission, and a participant in the development of this application, I can confirm that the application addresses many of the needs outlined not only during community conversations related directly to the application, but also to many other discussions and conversations about the needs of surrounding neighborhoods.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements fit into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region.

The Arts Commission has worked for the last seven years in both the UpTown and Junction neighborhoods, utilizing arts strategies to help residents improve safety and beautify their communities, and to build long-term, sustainable connections to resources and networks that lead to infrastructure enhancements. The improvements proposed in this City of Toledo RAISE application align with The Arts Commission's proposed Culture Trail, a bike and pedestrian friendly corridor which connects residents from Junction, through UpTown, to Downtown and the Warehouse District, and into East Toledo, highlighting recreational and cultural assets along the way.

The city is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in connected neighborhoods accelerates brings economic opportunity to areas that have experienced disinvestment for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate our neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity and improve



overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits as well.

I am hopeful that the comprehensive plan outlined in this application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Jarrett  
Chief Operating Officer



April 1, 2022



Writer contact:

Laura Maristany

[lmарistany@bitwiseindustries.com](mailto:lmарistany@bitwiseindustries.com)

571-218-6526

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: City of Toledo Raise Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Bitwise Industries, we write to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. The proposed project will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of Toledo's transportation system, which is important to the success of the launch of our tech ecosystem in the city. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of the neighborhoods our employees, students, and stakeholders come from, and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other areas of our city.

Since 2013, Bitwise Industries, a female and minority-led technology company headquartered in Fresno, CA, has been training unexpected people from underestimated places for jobs in the digital economy. Our workforce programs have trained over 8,000 student workers, with 80% of job seekers finding employment in tech jobs following our program, resulting in over a quarter of a billion dollars of aggregate wages, mostly for women and minorities. Many of these individuals have gone from making under \$21K/year to well over \$61K/year. Furthermore, the technology consulting side of our business has hired many of these students to help cities build and strengthen their digital infrastructure, proving it is possible to build stellar technology in underrepresented places with diverse, nontraditional talent. In 2021, we announced our expansion to Toledo and plan to partner with ProMedica to develop Toledo's Jefferson Building. We began offering coding and web development classes to Toledoans in September 2021.

With this RAISE grant, Toledo would be able to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation

District (SID) under development in Uptown, which will provide the backdrop for maturation of Bitwise Industries' digital equity model. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center, which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including Bitwise Industries' nationally recognized workforce development programming, tech consulting, and community-building activities. By recruiting underestimated humans into technology apprenticeships based out of the Toledo Innovation Center, and leveraging their talents to strengthen digital infrastructure in our communities, we will transform the regional economy, increase local demand for technology, and expand pathways into high wage, high growth jobs.

The City of Toledo's project will reduce transportation barriers that could and have prevented people from accessing high wage jobs in Toledo. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time creating a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via American Rescue Plan funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships. If funded, the RAISE grant will sustain the city's upward trajectory and ensure equitable outcomes by bringing additional opportunities to these historically underserved neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. This vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammi Sherman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tammi Sherman  
VP Toledo, Bitwise Industries

# CHERRY ST. MISSION MINISTRIES

1501 Monroe Street • Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419-214-3007 • LRC Fax: 567-661-0014  
www.cherrystreetmission.org

March 30, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with Cherry Street Mission Ministries vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,



Ann Ebbert  
President & CEO

**Rescuing** the downtrodden, **Restoring** hope to the hopeless,  
and **Releasing** God's greatness to our communities – *Luke 4:18-19*



# CHERRY ST. MISSION MINISTRIES

1501 Monroe Street • Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419-214-3007 • LRC Fax: 567-661-0014  
www.cherrystreetmission.org

March 30, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

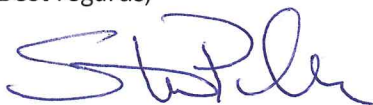
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with Cherry Street Mission Ministries vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,



Steve Piller  
COO

**Rescuing** the downtrodden, **Restoring** hope to the hopeless,  
and **Releasing** God's greatness to our communities – *Luke 4:18-19*





1501 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604 (419) 720-1106 (office) [www.ConnectingKidsToMeals.org](http://www.ConnectingKidsToMeals.org)

March 18, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

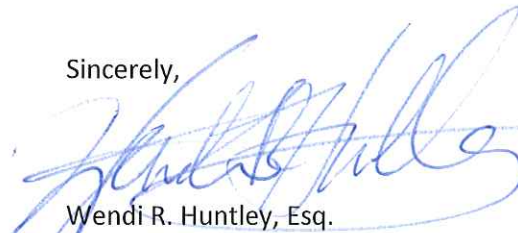
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with the vision and strategic plan of Connecting Kids To Meals for the region, and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Connecting Kids To Meals is a hunger-relief nonprofit that provides healthy meals at no cost to at-risk kids ages 18 and under who are located in low-income and underserved areas of Northwest Ohio. We have been feeding hungry kids for about 19 years.

Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city. The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Sincerely,



Wendi R. Huntley, Esq.  
President

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 23, 2022

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. Having joined city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during our community conversations. In many ways, Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, however, this growth and redevelopment has not yet reached many of our neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods located within and adjacent to downtown, identified as the focus for this grant, have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the strategic plan and vision that has been agreed upon and can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services specifically focused on an underserved population living in the Uptown and Junction neighborhoods as well as other surrounding neighborhoods. The community has partnered with Bitwise Industries to bring their proven track record of upskilling an underserved population to anchor the Social Innovation District. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the City is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for downtown and the city. These improvements will positively impact all of downtown as we can attract additional job opportunities and increase the standard of living for the residents in these neighborhoods.

The City is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates our progress by bringing economic opportunity to areas that have been disinvested for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate our neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits as well. And because our communities suffer disproportionate poor health, these benefits are incredibly important.

I am hopeful that our thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Paul L. Toth*

Paul Toth  
President

April 3, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with Jerusalem Baptist Church vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have amenitized bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

Reverend Dr. W. L. Perryman Jr. – Pastor  
Jerusalem Baptist Church  
Toledo, Ohio 43604



## OUR MISSION

---

JumpStart unlocks the full potential of entrepreneurship to transform entire communities.

April 5, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with JumpStart Inc's vision and strategic priorities for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. JumpStart will have a team and office located in the building to provide critical technical business and entrepreneurial services to local entrepreneurs and small business owners to help their businesses grow. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

Teleange Thomas

Chief Operations & Relationship Officer

JumpStart Inc,

**CONNECT WITH US**

---

6701 Carnegie Ave., Suite 100, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 • [jumpstartinc.org](http://jumpstartinc.org) • 216.363.3400





**Lucas Metropolitan Housing**  
435 Nebraska Avenue, PO Box 477  
Toledo, Ohio 43697-0477  
419-259-9400 Fax 419-259-9494  
[www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org)

April 8, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is well-aligned with Lucas Metropolitan Housing's Junction-McClinton Nunn Choice Neighborhood's Initiative Transformation Plan vision. In this vision, the CNI team proposes the creation of strong physical and functional connections to downtown Toledo and other surrounding neighborhoods that will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that have occurred in other areas.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center, a historic building undergoing extensive renovation to house a variety of services. These services include technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, among others, and will help ensure the success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability.

Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the application will improve safety and accessibility, while also creating a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments using ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will create an upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing, and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for the Uptown and Junction neighborhoods fit solidly within the DOT's goals, and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

DocuSigned by:  
*Joaquin Cintron Vega*  
8E5F801CC103454  
Joaquin Cintron Vega  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Joaquin Cintron Vega, *President and Chief Executive Officer*  
Board of Commissioners

Hugh W. Grefe, Chair, Alisha M. Gant, Vice Chair, William J. Brennan, Pastor Michael Hanck, Michael K. Hart





March 29, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. Having joined city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved with the development of this application, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during our community conversations. In many ways, Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, however this growth and redevelopment has not yet reached many of our neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the strategic plan and vision that has been agreed upon and can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the city is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region.

ZDL Ventures, Inc. dba Manhattan's Pub 'n Cheer is a family-owned restaurant established in 2002. Manhattan's was an early investor in the rebirth of the Adams Street Corridor in Uptown, and has since become the neighborhood pub where local residents, workers, students and folks from all around metropolitan Toledo gather for great food, beverages and fellowship. Our long term success has always been linked to the continuous growth and development of the Uptown neighborhood, and to that end, we strongly support the City of Toledo's application for the RAISE grant. In addition to improving accessibility to our district from adjoining neighborhoods, we welcome the infrastructure improvements that the grant proceeds promise to cover, particularly the streetscaping and lighting improvements for Adams Street that have been on the drawing boards for years.

The city is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates our progress by bringing economic opportunity to areas that have been disinvested for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate our neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity and improve overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits as well. And because our communities suffer disproportionate poor health, these benefits are incredibly important.

I am hopeful that our thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Marty Lahey  
Manhattan's Pub 'n Cheer  
1516 Adams Street  
Toledo, OH 43604



# METROPARKS TOLEDO

March 22, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. Having joined city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved with the development of this application, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during our community conversations. In many ways, Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, however this growth and redevelopment has not yet reached many of our neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the strategic plan and vision that has been agreed upon and can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the city is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region.

The project proposed in this application compliments Metroparks Toledo vision for the Glass City Riverwalk and a thriving, vibrant downtown with 300 acres of new and revitalized riverfront greenspace connected by five miles of multi-use trail. We believe it is important to invest in public spaces where our residents can gather to build life-long connections to each other and nature.



## **METROPARKS TOLEDO**

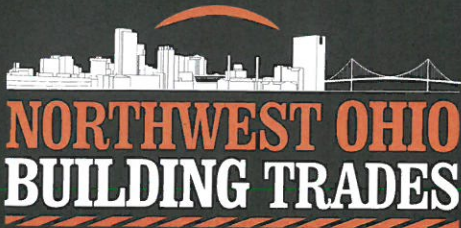
The city is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates our progress by bringing economic opportunity to areas that have been disinvested for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate our neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity and improve overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits as well. And because our communities suffer disproportionate poor health, these benefits are incredibly important.

I am hopeful that our thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dave Zenk

Executive Director



1600 Front Street / Toledo, OH 43605  
(419) 693-7717 / [www.toledoconstruction.com](http://www.toledoconstruction.com)



**SHAUN ENRIGHT**  
*Executive Secretary/  
Business Manager*

**ROY B. GROSSWILER**  
*President*

**MIKE KUJAWA**  
*Vice-President*

**JAMIE PEPPERS**  
*Financial Secretary/  
Treasurer*

**KHRIS SHIVELY**  
*Recording Secretary*

**RICK TOBER**  
*Sergeant-at-Arms*

**COREY BEAUBIEN**  
*Trustee*

**DAVID FLEETWOOD**  
*Trustee*

**RICK SALISBURY**  
*Trustee*

April 7, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

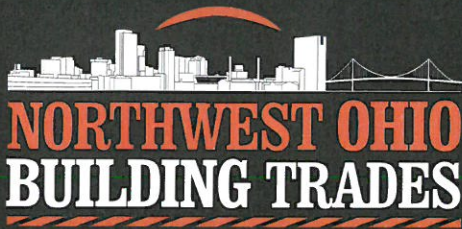
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. In joining city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved with the development of this application, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during community conversations. In many ways, Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, however this growth and redevelopment has not yet reached many of the City's neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the agreed upon strategic plan and vision that can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures, the City can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the City is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region.

The City's investment in its infrastructure is expected to create a flow of construction jobs. Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council ("NWOBTC") represents over 17,000 of the construction workers who will benefit from this job creation. NWOBTC's construction workers' qualifications, skills, and training are unparalleled. Since 2016, the City of Toledo has demonstrated its commitment to responsible job creation by adopting a project labor agreement ("PLA") ordinance for its construction projects. The City's PLA requirements protects taxpayers and our community - it helps ensure





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construction project delivery on-time, on-or-under budget, and with the highest quality workforce in accordance with area standards for wages and benefits.

The City is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates the City's progress by bringing economic opportunity to areas that have been disinvested for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate the City's neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits from which our communities disproportionately suffer.

I am optimistic that the City's thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in its application will be reviewed favorably. Our community needs the jobs that will be created by the infrastructure projects and deserves the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide.

Sincerely,

Shaun Enright, Business Manager/Executive Secretary



February 2, 2023

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city. In 2022, with ODOT's support, the City submitted a RAISE grant application for this project. The current application contains refinements, based on a thorough assessment of relevant data and stakeholder input, that further illustrate the importance and potential impact of an already compelling proposal.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have amenitized bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McColley".

Patrick M. McColley, PE, SI, MBA  
Deputy Director



**OWENS CORNING WORLD HEADQUARTERS**  
ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43659  
419 248 8000

March 31, 2022

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



Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Owens Corning is pleased to support the City of Toledo's RAISE grant application for the Connecting Toledo Neighborhoods to Opportunity (CTNO) project. The City's plan as outlined in the application promises to boost climate friendly economic development, increase resiliency and help provide much needed economic opportunity to neighborhoods in need.

Owens Corning is proud to be based in Toledo, Ohio where we employ more than 1,000. Our company is a global building and construction materials leader committed to building a sustainable future through material innovation. Our three integrated businesses – Composites, Insulation, and Roofing – provide durable, sustainable, energy-efficient solutions that leverage our unique material science, manufacturing, and market knowledge to help our customers win and grow. We are global in scope and human in scale with approximately 20,000 employees in 33 countries dedicated to making a difference in the communities where we work and live.

The goal of the CTNO project is to better connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to a variety of city services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business assistance, and other wrap around services. The project will enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the neighborhood. The only access currently available is an expressway overpass lacking adequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. City planners expect the project will improve safety and accessibility.

Toledo has never been a more exciting place to call home. City leaders and the business community are working collaboratively, building on recent investments from ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the City's upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant could bring additional opportunities to our community and spur investment in small and minority owned businesses, affordable housing and arts and cultural institutions.

I respectfully urge your support for this important project and appreciate your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Rettig". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don Rettig  
Director, Community Affairs  
Owens Corning





March 21, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with ProMedica's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have amenitized bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,



John Pigott, MD  
Chief Innovations Officer

**INNOVATIONS**



February 1, 2023

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation (DOT) RAISE Grant application. ProMedica, a non-profit health and well-being organization headquartered in Toledo, was proud to join city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who worked collaboratively to develop this competitive application. I was impressed by the open dialogue, creative thinking, and problem solving that took place to address many of the transportation issues facing our community. ProMedica has been actively supporting much of the city's rebirth with investments in our corporate headquarters as well as through our significant work in social determinants of health. We are proud of the progress the community is making as it strives to redevelop many of its neighborhoods that have experienced decades of disinvestment and decline. The Junction and Uptown neighborhoods (the focus of this grant application) were identified as high priorities due to their historic neglect. Funding from a DOT RAISE grant would catalyze the project significantly.

We are confident that improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding, and other safety measures, will bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the city is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region.

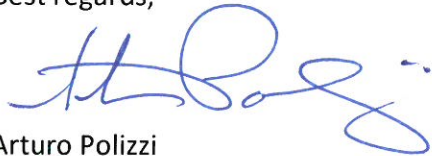
ProMedica is an organization whose mission is to improve health and well-being. We know that access to safe multimodal transportation, education, and employment positively impact health outcomes. Both the Uptown and Junction neighborhoods have some of the worst health outcomes in our region and as such, we are happy this transportation project will provide



significant investment that can turn the tide on these discouraging and dangerous statistics. The transportation project also supports the significant investment ProMedica has undertaken in the Uptown neighborhood over the past several years: we built a grocery store with a teaching kitchen, opened a Financial Opportunity Center, and hosted educational, entertainment, and health events to build community. Our efforts are part of our overall commitment to addressing the social determinants of health and the plans outlined in the DOT RAISE grant application align well with our goals and accelerate our upward trajectory.

We are hopeful that the city's thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. ProMedica is proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arturo Polizzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arturo Polizzi  
President and CEO



March 28, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with the Regional Growth Partnership's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other areas of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services, including technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap-around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority-owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fits solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dean Monske'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dean Monske  
President & CEO



April 4, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support Letter for City of Toledo RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am thrilled to join community leaders, small business owners and residents of northwest Ohio in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. As one of the many people involved with the development of this application, I can attest that this plan addresses the needs of our public transportation customers, in addition to the region in general.

While Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, the benefits of this growth and redevelopment have not yet reached many of our neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the steps outlined in this application.

As the Toledo area's public transportation system, we are no stranger to the financial and mobility challenges posed to residents in these neighborhoods. More than 80 percent of TARTA riders polled do not have access to a vehicle, and more than 86 percent of customers have an income that places them below the poverty line.

Taking what steps we can to correct these imbalances is one of the reasons TARTA is embarking on TARTA Next, its first system redesign in decades. Better bus service will help create affordable access to jobs, medical appointments, and education, and pave the way for a more equitable region.

Connecting the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods accomplishes these same goals. Through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding, and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities

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Toledo, Ohio 43697-0792

P: 419.243.7433 | F: 419.243.8588

**TARTA.COM**

available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of the new Toledo Innovation Center, which will house technical training, apprenticeships, small business programs and other services.

Toledo has demonstrated a commitment to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates our progress by bringing economic opportunity to new areas.

TARTA sees its involvement in the comprehensive plan outlined in this application as another way to empower people to make connections. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Koprowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Laura Koprowski  
Chief Executive Officer

# CITY OF TOLEDO

MATT A. CHERRY  
COUNCILMAN



One Government Center  
Suite 2120  
Toledo, Ohio 43604 USA  
E-mail:  
matt.cherry@toledo.oh.gov

February 15, 2023

Phone : 419.245.1050  
Fax: 419.245.1072  
Cell: 419.252.0565

Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
West Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, 9th floor  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Toledo's Project Proposal for RAISE Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Toledo's proposal for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant opportunity.

The City of Toledo's proposed project would greatly benefit residents by improving safety, increasing walkability, and promoting equity in Toledo's urban core. These benefits will be achieved through the development of multi-modal, Complete Streets infrastructure that connects historically disadvantaged communities to key resources and employment opportunities in Toledo's Social Innovation District. I believe that this project will also serve as a catalyst for the development of Toledo's once-thriving downtown neighborhoods.

As Toledo City Council President, I am committed to working with Mayor Kapszukiewicz and my fellow members of council to ensure the swift approval of legislation and funding related to the City's grant proposal. I ask that you strongly consider the City of Toledo's application for the RAISE Grant funding opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Matt Cherry  
President  
Toledo City Council





March 21, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned with the LISC Toledo vision and strategic framework for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant proposal links economic development, education, and entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have been under resourced and are not experience the economic growth that is occurring in other areas of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disinvested neighborhoods, Junction and Uptown neighborhoods to the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center, which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to ensure that the residents living in the adjacent neighborhoods have access to in-demand career paths. The project will create multimodal transit for pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the proposal will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time; create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments of New Market Tax Credits, Historic Tax Credits, ARP funds, private philanthropy, and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE proposal will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing, and arts and cultural. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Cutcher".

Kim Cutcher  
Executive Director



635 North Erie Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604-5317  
419.213.4100  
419.213.4017 Fax  
boardofhealth@co.lucas.oh.us



Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH  
Health Commissioner

#### LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Ted Kaczorowski, President  
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Paul Komisarek  
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Donald R. Murray  
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Michelle Schultz  
Donna A Woodson, MD

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The Department operates in  
accordance with Title VII of the  
Civil Rights Act of 1964

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[www.lucascountyhealth.com](http://www.lucascountyhealth.com)

March 22, 2022

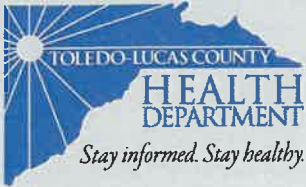
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. Having joined city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved with the development of this application, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during our community conversations. In many ways, Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, however this growth and redevelopment has not yet reached many of our neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the strategic plan and vision that has been agreed upon and can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the city is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region. In addition, the proposed improvements support the work the Toledo Lucas County Health Department has done in improving Active Transportation county-wide. This plan would assist in implementing recommendations found within the Lucas County Active Transportation Plan allowing for an accessible community where people of all ages and abilities, including children can conveniently, comfortably, affordably, and safely walk, cycle, or use public transit as part of their everyday travel behaviors.

The city is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates our progress by bringing economic opportunity to areas that have been disinvested for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate our neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity and improve overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits as well. And because our communities suffer disproportionate poor health, these benefits are incredibly important.



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I am hopeful that our thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH  
Health Commissioner, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department



2/14/23

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have amenitized bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Winston  
President & CEO





## Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Toledo, Ohio 43604

P.O. Box 9508 Toledo, OH 43697-9508

Phone 419.241.9155 | Fax 419.241.9116 | [www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org)

February 14, 2023

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

**RE: City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE Grant application. Having joined city leaders, community members, small business owners, non-profit leaders, and others who were directly involved with the development of this application, I can attest that it addresses many of the needs outlined during our community conversations. In many ways, Toledo is experiencing a rebirth after decades of decline, however this growth and redevelopment has not yet reached many of our neighborhoods. The Uptown and Junction neighborhoods identified as the focus for this grant have experienced historic disinvestment and neglect that can begin to be reversed with the strategic plan and vision that has been agreed upon and can be catalyzed with DOT funds.

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is the metropolitan planning organization for northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan. Our transportation planning region includes Lucas and Wood counties in Ohio and the southern three townships of Monroe County, Michigan. TMACOG aims to achieve a transportation system that is safe, efficient, and serves all users. TMACOG maintains a regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP) that looks out twenty years and guides future transportation investments. Enhancing personal mobility through multimodal connections is identified as a goal in the LRP and is consistently recognized by members of the public as a need in their communities. The connection between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods was identified as project thirty-six on the LRP's priority project list. Additionally, the City and TMACOG are working to include the proposed RAISE Grant project on the Transportation Improvement Plan and State Transportation Improvement Plan.

By improving the connectivity between the Junction and Uptown neighborhoods through dedicated bike and pedestrian corridors with better lighting, wayfinding, and other safety measures, we can bring the services and opportunities available in Uptown to the residents of Junction. The Uptown neighborhood is the location of a newly formed Social Innovation District anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center, which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports and other wrap around services to help ensure the success of the individuals involved in the programs. The proposed improvements build upon the planned infrastructure projects the city is undertaking to upgrade aging water and sewer lines and fits into the broader strategic plan for the entire city and region.

**Our Vision:** TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges.



**The Honorable Peter Buttigieg**

**February 14, 2023**

**Page 2**

The City of Toledo is committed to building on the momentum from significant public and private partnerships that are enhancing our convention center, our riverfront, and our central business district. Additional investment in these neighborhoods accelerates our progress by bringing economic opportunity to areas that have been disinvested for many years. The intentional planning and community involvement have resulted in a plan that will elevate our neighborhoods, increase economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Furthermore, by increasing access to safe pedestrian and bicycle corridors, we will reap the health benefits, and because our communities suffer disproportionate poor health, these benefits are incredibly important.

I am hopeful that our thoughtful and comprehensive plan outlined in the application will be reviewed favorably. Our community members need and deserve the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. I am proud to have been part of the process to bring this plan together and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Tim W. Brown  
President

TWB:DDG:ja



David Gedeon, AICP  
Vice President of Transportation



21 March 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with the Toledo Museum of Art's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Levine", with a large, sweeping flourish.

Adam Levine  
Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey  
President, Director and CEO



Office of the Superintendent/CEO  
Toledo Public Schools Educational Campus  
1609 N. Summit St • Toledo, OH 43604

March 30, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with Toledo Public Schools' vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romules Durant", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Romules Durant  
Superintendent/CEO

April 1, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce's vision for the region and will serve as a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. The RAISE grant application supports an effort to bring economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other areas of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will assist in bringing the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. With increased access to education and economic opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their future and wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy, and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fits solidly within our community's goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wendy R. Gramza, CCE  
President & CEO





3/30/2022

**Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation**  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with Toledo School for the Art's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have amenitized bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

Douglas Mead

Director, Toledo School for the Arts





March 30, 2021

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with The Toledo Zoo's strategy of stewardship for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other areas of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center, which is a historic building, undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sailer  
President/CEO  
The Toledo Zoo



A Social Justice Project of  
Holy Spirit Catholic Community  
3156 Doyle Street ~ Toledo, OH 43608-2006  
[www.treetoledo.org](http://www.treetoledo.org)

March 29, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It is my pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with Tree Toledo's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods, and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other areas of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is an historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood, and increase their economic stability. Currently, the streets connecting Junction to Uptown lack adequate tree cover, are not pedestrian and bike friendly, nor do they have amenitized bus stops despite the high ridership. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while creating a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur enhanced investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing, and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fits solidly within the DOT's goals, and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best Regards,

*Thomas McDonald*



April 4, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with United Way of Greater Toledo's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other areas of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

Wendy Pestrue, J.D.  
President & CEO  
United Way of Greater Toledo

---

UNITED WAY OF GREATER TOLEDO  
1001 Madison Ave., Suite 100  
Toledo, OH 43604

P: 419-248-2424  
F: 419-246-4614  
E: [unitedway@unitedwaytoledo.org](mailto:unitedway@unitedwaytoledo.org)

WOOD COUNTY OFFICE  
217 S. Church Street  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

P: 419-352-2390  
F: 419-254-4766  
E: [info@unitedwaywoodcounty.org](mailto:info@unitedwaywoodcounty.org)

OTTAWA COUNTY OFFICE  
1854 E. Perry St. #300  
Port Clinton, OH 43452

P: 419-734-6645  
F: 419-254-4786  
E: [info@unitedwayottawacounty.org](mailto:info@unitedwayottawacounty.org)





The Uptown Association, Inc.  
241 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419-290-8629

March 29, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with The UpTown Association's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

James L. Harter, PhD  
President, The UpTown Association Board  
(419) 270-1652



WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

2186 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3509  
(202) 225-4146  
Fax: (202) 225-7711

OHIO OFFICES

(800) 964-4699  
Fax: (419) 255-9623  
<http://kaptur.house.gov>



**MARCY KAPTUR**  
9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRWOMAN  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee on Defense

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Subcommittee on Disability Assistance  
and Memorial Affairs

February 22, 2023

Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
West Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to express strong support for the proposal from the City of Toledo to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. RAISE funding will allow the City of Toledo to implement its strategic plan and vision for our region, serving as a catalyst for ongoing transportation developments. This proposal will bolster disadvantaged neighborhoods and connect communities to important resources in Toledo's city center.

This opportunity would empower the City of Toledo to connect the historically underserved Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The cornerstone of the SID is our Toledo Innovation Center, a historic building that is currently undergoing extensive renovations to house wraparound services including: technical training, apprenticeships, and small business supports. The project will also encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to empower the numerous minority-owned businesses in the Junction neighborhood and foster economic stability and growth. The streets connecting Junction to Uptown lack critical pedestrian and bicycle friendly amenities, including a scarcity of bus stops despite high ridership. This proposal will improve safety and accessibility while equipping underserved neighborhoods with increased access to education and economic development opportunities.

The City of Toledo is building upon recent federal investment, private philanthropy, and public/private partnerships that will make our region competitive for shared growth. I urge the application's favorable review consistent with your agency's rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcy Kaptur".

MARCY KAPTUR  
U.S. Representative



SHERROD BROWN, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND	PATRICK J. TOOMEY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY	RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA
JON TESTER, MONTANA	MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO
MARK WARNER, VIRGINIA	TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA
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CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND	THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
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JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA	JERRY MORAN, KANSAS
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	STEVE DAINES, MONTANA

LAURA SWANSON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
BRAD GRANTZ, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to draw your attention to the City of Toledo Department of Transportations' application for Fiscal Year 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant funding for the Social Innovation District (SID) improvement project.

The SID houses a variety of services including apprenticeships, small business support, and technical training to aid in the success of the individuals involved in these programs. The proposed project would connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Social Innovation District. RAISE funding will be used to improve transportation by connecting the streets of Junction and SID in a manner that is pedestrian and bicycle friendly and increases bus stops for people relying on public transportation.

The economic impact of this project would improve the overall development of Toledo along with the neighborhoods around it. Connecting these areas and improving transportation has the potential to bring economic development, education, and entertainment opportunities to Toledo communities that have missed the economic development surge that has occurred in other areas of Toledo. By improving development, safety, and accessibility through RAISE funding, Toledo neighborhoods can build their wealth and support the small businesses and housing, arts, and cultural institutions located in SID and Junction.

It is important that we continue to support efforts such as the SID-Junction improvement project, which will promote major economic development and transportation connectivity interests in the city of Toledo and in the State of Ohio. Please give Toledo's application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
Chairman



**MISSION**

YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

March 16, 2022

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my sincere pleasure to support the City of Toledo's Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This funding opportunity is aligned incredibly well with YWCA of Northwest Ohio's vision and strategic plan for the region and will be a catalyst for the ongoing development of our transportation system. Toledo has a long history of disinvestment in many of our neighborhoods and the plan outlined in the RAISE grant application brings economic development, education, and even entertainment opportunities to neighborhoods that have missed the economic rebound that has occurred in other area of our city.

The goal of the RAISE grant is to connect the historically disadvantaged Junction neighborhood to the Uptown neighborhood, and specifically the Social Innovation District (SID) under development in Uptown. The SID is anchored by the Toledo Innovation Center which is a historic building undergoing extensive renovation in order to house a variety of services including, technical training, apprenticeships, small business supports, and other wrap around services to help ensure success of the individuals involved in the programs. The project will also bring the pedestrian and bicycle traffic necessary to support the numerous minority-owned businesses established in the Junction neighborhood and increase their economic stability. Currently, Uptown and Junction are connected by expressway overpasses without adequate pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure. Despite high ridership, the bus routes do not have bus stops with amenities. The plan outlined in the grant will improve safety and accessibility while at the same time, create a sense of neighborhood identity. Moreover, with increased access to education and economic development opportunities, residents in both neighborhoods can build their wealth.

Toledo is building on recent investments via ARP funds, private philanthropy and public/private partnerships that will continue the upward trajectory. If funded, the RAISE grant will bring additional opportunities to our neighborhoods and spur additional investment in small and minority owned businesses, housing and arts and cultural institutions. I firmly believe this vision for Uptown and Junction fit solidly within the DOT's goals and I hope to learn of its favorable review.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa McDuffie".

Lisa McDuffie, MSSA, LISW-S  
President and CEO