

Ray LaHood  
Transportation Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ray LaHood,

Your interview with Christie Findlay in the October 2009 AARP Bulletin convinced me to write to you. In that interview you emphasized the concept of livable cities and alternative forms of transportation.

Currently in Cleveland, Ohio there is a great opportunity to transform the livable cities and alternative forms of transportation concepts into tangible results.

Federal monies have been allocated for replacement of the innerbelt bridge in Cleveland, Ohio. The original plan was based on what had been done in the past and did not include bike or pedestrian access. There is a group of young professionals interested in a forward-looking, sustainable plan that includes bike and pedestrian access on this important connection between two parts of the city. The attached document contains sketches. (there is also a non-technical rap music segment on YouTube - search for "Cleveland innerbelt bridge" )

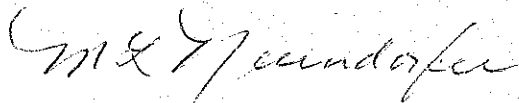
This project (with pedestrian and bike access) could be an excellent example of the futurist, green outlook your department espouses. It is apparent that the decision makers want to do the best job possible, however may need reassurance that a 'new' way can be successful. Change is difficult and requires security that a forward-looking plan can work. It would be useful if your department could provide encouragement and reassurance to the decision makers in favor of a green solution.

The contact for the green, 'for all residents' solution John Hosek, [Jhosek@mpo.noaca.org](mailto:Jhosek@mpo.noaca.org). The director of the bridge project is: Craig Hebebrand, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 12, 5500 Transportation Blvd., Garfield Heights OH 44125, [craig.hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:craig.hebebrand@dot.state.oh.us), (216) 581-2100.

If the plan including pedestrian and bike access is approved, the completed project could serve as an example of how one city is on the path toward more livable cities and sustainability.

Thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide.

Best regards,



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