



December 10, 2009

Howard R. Maier
NOACA
1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3204

RE: Innerbelt Bridge – Access for Cyclists and Pedestrians

Dear Director Maier,

For more than 50 years, University Circle Inc. (UCI) has been coordinating growth and development in Cleveland's University Circle neighborhood. UCI realizes that smart, progressive infrastructure investment is critical to our mission of creating a premier urban district. This is why we are supporting efforts to enhance bicycle and pedestrian networks, alongside much needed roadway and public transit improvements, both in our district and throughout the region.

Vibrant, successful cities are filled with a wide variety of options when it comes to choices like where to live, where to work, where to shop, and how to travel. Transportation choices are sometimes made out of preference for one mode or another, but they are often made out of necessity. It is our obligation to provide individuals and communities with options that improve their quality of life and that afford them the opportunity to move in their preferred mode or in the mode that they have chosen out of necessity.

In Cleveland, cycling and walking are the only options for many households and individuals of modest means. They are also conscious choices for many individuals who prefer healthier, more affordable transportation that has no negative impact on the environment. Our infrastructure investments, large and small, must take these factors into account and must provide more options, more choices for all segments of our community. At the same time, they can become the signatures or landmarks of an inclusive, forward-thinking community, both literally and figuratively.

It is with these factors in mind that I urge your support for the addition of bicycle and pedestrian access to the new Innerbelt Bridge that will soon span the Cuyahoga River. I believe that the way we invest in and design our region's most valuable infrastructure says a lot about our community. To deliberately prohibit a large segment of our population from utilizing this important roadway would be a step in the wrong direction and a missed opportunity to connect our region in new ways. Thank you for your time and your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Ronayne
President
University Circle Inc.

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Development Service Advocacy

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