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Cleveland, Oh 44109
216-870-0057

Mr. John Hosek
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

December 10, 2009

Dear Mr. Hosek:

In the past 50 years, we have built a transportation system overly focused on high-speed automobile traffic, often at the expense of community livability and the safety of people. One-third of Americans either can't drive or choose not to. In some of the neighborhoods surrounding the Inner Belt project up to 60% of citizens have no car. If there were a pedestrian walkway on the Inner Belt, thousands of these people would have access to things such as fresh food from the West Side Market and health programs from Metro Health Systems. Yet, the ODOT bridge design ignores these people by not including them in this huge project that profoundly affects their lives and their neighborhood.

Nearly 10,000 pedestrians were killed on U.S. roadways in the last two years. Children, older Americans, and minorities are especially at risk and are the most likely to be killed while doing things like walking to school, to church or shopping for their daily needs. Many of these deaths are preventable. We need to start building roads in a way that works for everyone who uses them - motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, people of all socio-economic means and those with limited mobility.

By making our streets more pedestrian-friendly, you would be helping to solve many of America's problems. Ohioans would be healthier, happier and spend less if they added more bicycling and walking to their daily lives. More feet on the street makes our neighborhoods safer and builds community. Air quality would be greatly improved. Health problems such as heart disease, diabetes and asthma would be decreased. Infrastructure repair and maintenance costs would be lowered.

Young people and people who are shaping the future of America want to live in cities that are walkable. I personally know a number of individuals who have relocated from this area to other places solely because our streets are not safe for pedestrians and cyclists. These people can live in other cities without driving as much as is required here; young, vibrant, creative, intelligent people like these are moving away because other cities have embraced making their communities bikeable and walkable. Changing the current Inner Belt bridge plans would signal loud and clear that Northeast Ohio wants to keep our young talent living and working here rather than having them leave.

Please don't miss this opportunity to save lives, create transportation choices for those who do not drive, improve air quality, make our streets safer, save taxpayer funds, retain local talent and build a better Cleveland.

Sincerely,

Lois Moss