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

December 10, 2009

Dear Mr. Hosek:

On behalf of my business, the hundreds of my Near West Side neighbors who are supportive but unengaged, and for myself as a daily walker and cyclist – **I write to join many Clevelanders in asking NOACA representatives to demand pedestrian/bicycle access on the Innerbelt bridge.**

As a member of the Innerbelt Committee years ago, I was among those who gave our valuable time and energy to ODOT's long public process. Many of us repeatedly raised the need for non-motorized access on the Innerbelt bridge, and **I am disappointed to see that ODOT has, to date, dismissed this potential without a methodical and thorough review.**

The bridge will be a fixture for the next several generations of Cleveland residents. An enormous percentage of these citizens already have limited-or-zero-access to a car. The car-less population will only grow, with long-term trends making car ownership unaffordable for even more residents. **DOTs across the country have built non-motorized access on dozens of similar bridges**, and the proposed ODOT alternative route is simply far less safe and direct for walking and cycling.

In this time of unprecedented economic and energy changes, **it is a grave mistake to knowingly design a critical piece of civic infrastructure that excludes so much of the local population.** Non-motorized access will also provide sweeping views of the city and the Cuyahoga Valley, creating a signature destination for locals and visitors alike. In combination with the Towpath Trail extension, a ped/bike facility can enhance economic development in the surrounding neighborhoods.

I urge the NOACA staff and board to require non-motorized access within ODOT's scope for final bridge design and construction. Whether as a matter of social and economic justice, environmental sustainability or civic pride, the people of Cleveland deserve the very best effort of ODOT to truly serve *all* members of our northeast Ohio community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan McKenzie".

Ryan McKenzie
Founder and President
CityWheels Carshare Club

cc: Craig Hebebrand, ODOT District 12