

December 10, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Hosek:

As an environmental minister with Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ and a resident of downtown Cleveland, I write to support providing a cycling and pedestrian lane on the proposed I-90/71 bridge. Such a dramatic, beautiful, healthy and practical connection to downtown Cleveland would be a wonderful new asset for Cleveland residents and visitors. I disagree with the decision of the Ohio Department of Transportation to not consider bicyclists and walkers in their plan.

Forwarding looking cities around the world are encouraging the equally important factors of equity, of health, and of environmental concern. At least 30 communities across the country benefit from cycling and pedestrian access to an interstate highway bridge. Replacing urban trips in private motor vehicles with active travel provides equal access for all the people, numerous health gains, and reductions in CO2 emissions.

Just this week the Environmental Protection Agency finalized its endangerment finding on greenhouse gas pollution, and is now authorized and obligated to take reasonable efforts to reduce greenhouse pollutants under the Clean Air Act. A ruling about vehicles is expected to follow. It falls upon policy-makers in this time of climate change to choose to lessen the impact of greenhouse gases. My request and hope is that Cleveland takes the opportunity with the design of this new bridge to do the right thing.

Please provide a copy of my written comments to all NOACA Board members at the December 11th meeting.

Sincerely,

Rev. Catherine Rolling

Rev. Catherine Rolling
Environmental Justice Program Assistant
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect
Cleveland Ohio 44115-1100



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God is still speaking,

