Appendix A: Letters of Support
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to offer my support for the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for their proposal for funds through the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program. The Glass City Riverwalk would be a tremendous catalyst for our community.

This proposal would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. The plan would provide direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, businesses, hotels, restaurants, and an impressive set of existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and access to transit will be located for convenience and accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. This will be a natural extension of, and boon for, existing dining and entertainment options, boat docks, parks and natural areas, as well as an innovative and widely-used kayak share program.

TMACOG has partnered with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo, and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. It coincides with, and complements, the revitalization of Northwest Ohio as a whole. I urge the application’s favorable review consistent with your agency’s rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

Marcy Kaptur
U.S. Representative
United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505  

May 5, 2020

Secretary Elaine Chao  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC  20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Department of Transportation reviews applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, I ask that you consider the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments' (TMACOG) funding request for $25 million. The grant will allow TMACOG to continue construction of the Glass City Riverwalk, a project to transform the downtown Toledo waterfront into a regional attraction.

The Glass City Riverwalk project will create a safe, wide trail on both sides of the Maumee River and provide access to riverfront amenities such as boat docks, natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program. The multi-use path will encourage physical activity and support mental health for residents with a diversity of programming for every season. The trails will directly connect to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks, stimulating economic growth in the Toledo metropolitan area. Parking lots and public transit near the trail will ensure accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. Further, The Glass City Riverwalk integrates urban ecological features to improve water quality, support riparian habitats, and manage storm water. The continued investment in infrastructure is critical to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of this region of Ohio.

TMACOG is collaborating with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation to complete the Glass City Riverwalk. Proper funding is essential for the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments’ funding request. Please keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention to the competitive grant application submitted by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

I understand that TMACOG, in partnership with the City of Toledo and Toledo Metroparks, seeks funding to develop a downtown Toledo multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River; a project to be known as Glass City Riverwalk. The proposed trail would connect neighborhoods and businesses on both sides of the river including hotels, restaurants, and existing parks. Assistance from your agency would allow TMACOG and its partners to move forward with their proposed project, transforming the downtown Toledo riverfront into a regional attraction.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Kristy Ramey, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman
United States Senator
April 28, 2020

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) has informed me that they are applying for a 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant to fund the Glass City Riverwalk project. I am writing to express my support for their grant application, and encourage you to favorably consider their application.

The Glass City Riverwalk project in its current form will produce a multi-use trail along the east and west side of the Maumee River, connecting businesses, restaurants, neighborhoods, hotels, and parks. Benefits of the transformational project will include increased access to recreation and the stimulation of economic growth. For generations, the Maumee River has been used in various photos of Downtown Toledo. The river has played an important role in the city’s historical arc. If TMACOG is awarded the grant, I believe that the Glass City Riverwalk project will revitalize the area and reiterate the importance of the mighty Maumee.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at either rep45@ohiohouse.gov or (614) 644-6017. Thank you for your consideration and I again encourage you to favorably consider their application.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Sobecki
Ohio Representative, 45th District

Cc: Roger Streiffert, TMACOG
APRIL 30TH, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The constituents of the 46th House district of Ohio and downtown Toledo would greatly appreciate this support.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Sheehy, State Representative
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

April 23, 2020

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a member of the Ohio Senate of the 133rd General Assembly proudly representing Lucas County in Ohio’s 11th senate district, I am pleased to express my support for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) as they apply for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

These funds would be used to develop the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Accessible recreational structures are vital for the health and social wellbeing of all residents, and the Glass City Riverwalk would certainly function as a significant regional attraction for residents and visitors. This project is an extension of a larger vision for downtown revitalization which includes the effort to repurpose the currently vacant Glass City Enrichment Center that would complement the proposed Riverwalk. This project was one of my capital budget requests, however, with the current economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am concerned that there may not be sufficient available funds as previously anticipated. It is my hope that the BUILD grant could supply adequate financial support to bring our vision for downtown Toledo to fruition.
I am grateful for the innovative ways in which TMACOG and Toledo Metroparks work to enhance Lucas County and serve its community. I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at 614-466-5204 or Fedor@ohiosenate.gov with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Senator Teresa Fedor
Ohio’s 11th Senate District
April 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As the District Three Toledo City Council Member I believe this project would have a long lasting positive impact on the residents of my district. The river front is an integral part of the East Toledo and Middle Grounds communities and making them more accessible to these residents would improve their quality of life and make accessing work and recreation options much less complicated.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Theresa Gadus
Council Member District Three
April 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the *Glass City Riverwalk*, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As the Chairman of the Toledo City Council committee for Regional Growth, Development, and Small Business Enterprise, I support this development of our riverfront area. As witnessed in other cities in Ohio, the revitalization of river front areas brings more economic growth and a better sense of community for residents and a more enjoyable time for visitors.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Ludeman
Councilman At-Large
May 6, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. As the Mayor of the City of Toledo, I urge you to give special consideration to this amazing project and the tremendous impact it will have not just on the City of Toledo, but our entire region.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor
City of Toledo
April 29, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590  

Dear Secretary Chao:  

On behalf of ConnecToledo, Downtown Development Corporation, I request your support of Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments’ (TMACOG) application for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.  

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project that will transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into an exceptional regional attraction. It will provide an activated, multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the Riverwalk to surrounding neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing park and trail systems. Transit stops, parking options and walking paths are located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The Riverwalk’s access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program will transform the downtown experience.  

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo, Greater Toledo Community Foundation, and ourselves. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.  

ConnecToledo is a non-profit, membership organization comprised of the area’s largest institutions. Our role is to advance downtown redevelopment, economic development, urban planning, placemaking and marketing. The development of the Glass City Riverwalk has been identified a key project for downtown’s success. As an organization, we have committed and will continue to prioritize resources for our riverfront’s development and this project.  

Please consider assisting TMACOG and the Toledo region in achieving the goal of funding this critical project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  

Cindy S. Kerr  
Vice President  

300 Madison, Suite 0110, Toledo OH 43604
April 30, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As the developer of the Marina District project along the riverfront in East Toledo as well as other properties downtown, Continental Real Estate Company, along with its partner Hallmark Communities and others, has invested heavily in the revitalization of the City’s Maumee River corridor and downtown core. The energy, growth and interconnectivity that the Glass City Riverwalk project will bring to this area will set the stage for high quality development, improved recreation and healthy living opportunities for decades to come.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Kass  
Chairman
May 1, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Travel and Tourism industry provides $2.1 Billion in economic impact and employs over 21,000 people in the Greater Toledo Region. As the official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for Lucas County and the Greater Toledo Region, Destination Toledo recognizes the importance of a connected, activated riverfront for attracting visitation to the area. The Glass City Riverwalk will make it attractive for large groups of visitors to arrive by personal watercraft, passenger ferry, or cruise ship. The project opens many possibilities for multi-modal transport to and from Toledo and will lead to economic growth and well-being of the entire region.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lance Woodworth

Lance Woodworth  
President & General Manager
29 April 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnectToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Mainstreet Ventures, Inc. and Mainstreet Ventures Restaurant Group owns and operates three restaurants on both sides of the riverfront. As a business owner, a redevelopment of the riverwalk would increase foot traffic in our area and businesses and provide our guests with a safe trail to access all of our restaurants. This redevelopment would help continue to stimulate and grow the Toledo economy for both our restaurants and other local businesses in the area.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Gibbons
President and Partner
April 28, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am representing the Downtown Toledo Improvement District, a non-profit comprised of the property owners in downtown Toledo. We support the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project that will transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into an exceptional regional attraction. It will provide an activated, multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the Riverwalk to surrounding neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing park and trail systems. Transit stops, parking options and walking paths are located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The Riverwalk’s access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program will transform the downtown experience.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneCToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Downtown Toledo Improvement District (DTID) brings enhanced level of services to a defined area within downtown Toledo. Our property owners desire an activated downtown that is safe and attractive with a wide variety of events, creative placemaking and fully occupied properties. The Glass City Riverwalk is critical to downtown and assists with our redevelopment. It is:

- A connector of both sides of our riverfront through the 5-mile trail and 3 bridges
- An attractor to businesses as they locate in downtown
- A repeatable experience for our neighborhoods
An amenity to our hotel guests as a great activity to experience while staying in downtown
A motivator for exercise and enjoying the outdoors
A destination no matter the demographic
A green space that will rise from vision to reality

Please consider assisting TMACOG and the Toledo region in achieving the goal of funding this critical project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James G. Kniep
Chairman
April 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The East Toledo Family Center has been serving the East Toledo community since 1901. We are strengthening and serving the community one life at a time. We assist our families through the program and services that we offer. We also, are a valued partner in the East Toledo community; through our community building efforts we engage residents and other stakeholders in being the voice of our neighborhoods. We coordinate the efforts to be sure that they are involved with projects like the Glass City Riverwalk.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jodi Gross  
Executive Director

In the community, for the community; strengthening one life at a time.
April 29, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnectToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

RKKP has successfully completed over $200MM in downtown-based historic real estate development projects throughout the Midwest. Relevant downtown Toledo projects include: The Berdan and Standart Lofts (combined 280,000 square feet of residential/commercial space, $48MM). Relevant downtown Toledo pipeline projects include: Fort Industry Square, Nasby Building and Overmeyer Lofts ($226MM). The Fort Industry Square redevelopment is underway with a projected Q2 2021 completion date. This mixed-use historic redevelopment to include 161,000 square feet of office, retail, restaurant and medical with 93 residential lofts. The transformative Fort Industry Square project will increase the density of the surrounding area, further encouraging continued development, commerce and growth of the downtown Toledo CBD/riverfront. The proposed Glass City Riverwalk will span across all riverfront access of the Fort Industry Square block and the Riverwalk project is a significant contributor to the larger effort of downtown Toledo’s Master Plan and revitalization efforts.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kevin Prater
Member
May 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TMACOG grant funding in the 2020 BUILD Transportation Discretionary program.

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Chief Executive Officer for Gotcha Mobility LLC, I write in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Gotcha Mobility is a collaborative mobility partner with many of the partners associated with Glass City Riverwalk, such as the City of Toledo, MetroParks Toledo, and TMACOG. Gotcha launched a bikeshare program in October 2018. Gotcha is also committed to continuing our partnership with this funding to maintain and potentially expand a sustainable shared mobility system in the City of Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sean Flood
Chief Executive Officer
Gotcha Mobility, LLC

7 Radcliffe St, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29403
April 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, The University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Greater Toledo Community Foundation is committed to making our region a better place – that’s our mission and has been since 1973. We work with likeminded individuals, families and businesses in our region who want nothing more than to make a difference in our community through charitable giving. Our focus is always on tomorrow and building a resource that will meet community needs long after we’re gone. A vibrant community is important to all of us, and that all starts with our downtown redevelopment. Our employees and donors alike have contributed to and benefitted from Foundation resources to impact a number of downtown redevelopment projects, and the Glass City Riverwalk is an extension of our efforts. We believe this project will complete the transformation we’ve seen in the downtown riverfront. It will connect us all in so many ways.

We stand with the partners in this project and our community and ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Burwell
President
4/27/2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

In addition to being a citizen of Toledo that will enjoy our enhanced waterfront, I am a stakeholder in one of our most underserved riverfront neighborhoods, Vistula. Vistula is Toledo’s first neighborhood and represents the cultural heritage of our great City. Our neighborhood will benefit significantly from this investment and the impact will be felt for generations to come. We expect to see limited commercial and residential development as part of the Glass City Riverwalk and instead maximize community-centric development that provides the people with entertainment, engagement, and educational resources.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Andrew Newby
Vistula Foundation, Chairman
The Toledo Spirits Company, Co-founder

The Toledo Spirits Company 1301 N Summit St Toledo OH 43604 toledospirits.com
April 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590  

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

SeaGate Convention Centre and Huntington Center are two of the main entertainment venues in downtown Toledo. We draw close to 600,000 people to downtown Toledo each year. Our goal is to draw people to downtown Toledo so they spend money not only in our venues but also with all of the restaurants, bars and retail establishments that continue to open. The completion of Glass City Riverwalk will give attendees more options to explore downtown Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steve Miller  
ASM Global General Manager  
SeaGate Convention Centre & Huntington Center
May 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to offer my support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Imagination Station is Toledo’s science center. Each year, 200,000 people visit our family-friendly educational facility. This year, we will open the KeyBank Discovery Theater, a $10 million addition that features the region’s first large-format high-definition theater. Our facility overlooks the river, and would benefit greatly from the Glass City Riverwalk project. We operate a café with a patio that opens onto the new Riverwalk. Foot traffic on the Riverwalk and boaters’ use of nearby boat docks would increase traffic to the café and improve access to the science center. Additional transportation options and parking lots, along with the project’s proposed direct connections from the trail to other downtown locations and venues will make it easier for a wide range of people to visit the science center.

The Glass City Riverwalk offers an exciting vision for a thriving Toledo waterfront, and I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Hauser
Chief Executive Officer
April 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.
TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Since 1980, LISC has invested $20 billion to build or rehabilitate 400,500 affordable homes and apartments and develop 67 million square feet of retail, community and educational space. LISC investments have leveraged more than $60 billion across the country for initiatives related to better housing, businesses, safety, health and jobs. In Toledo, we focus our work on four core neighborhoods, two of which would directly benefit from the Riverwalk project.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Cutcher
Executive Director
LISC Toledo
May 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

At Maumee Bay Brewing Co, we are known for our house-brewed craft beer, delicious pub food and premium steaks. We also host private events, such as corporate gatherings and weddings. Additionally, we offer tours of the historical building where guests can learn about the Oliver House and enjoy the beer memorabilia. This project will increase our accessibility and exposure to the public as well as encourage our sales, growth and active involvement in the community.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Perkins
General Manager
Maumee Bay Brewing Co.
27 Broadway Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
419-243-1302
April 29, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

We are the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor (MVHC). Our mission is to advocate for and protect the historical, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Maumee watershed, while promoting their use and appreciation by current and future residents and visitors. The Glass City Riverwalk would be a critically positive project that would make great strides to fulfill our mission. It would bring in visitors, income, recreation, and appreciation of the downtown Toledo river landscape's heritage and beauty.

I strongly ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Butwin  
President, MVHC  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 886, Napoleon OH 43545  
Email: maumeevalleyheritagecorridor@hotmail.com  
Website: www.maumeevalleyheritagecorridor.org

The Mission of the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor is to advocate for and protect the historical, natural, and cultural resources of the Maumee Valley watershed while promoting their use and appreciation by current and future residents and visitors.
April 29, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneCtoledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Mercy Health is committed to the redevelopment of the downtown area. Over the past several years, the Ministry has spent more than $40M dollars on Cherry Street, one of the main arteries into the downtown Toledo. Furthermore, prior to the pandemic, Mercy Health committed to developing a mixed used development along Cherry Street that would provide housing for Residents that are advancing their medical training at St. Vincent’s hospital. The development of
the Glass City Riverwalk would be an ideal addition to the investments that Mercy Health is making in the community.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Matthew Sapara  
VP of Operations and Regional Development
May 1, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I completely support the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG is funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program designed by Metroparks Toledo.

We are proud to partner with TMACOG in this application along with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Metroparks Toledo is deeply invested in these improvements to downtown Toledo and are already well underway with the construction of Phase 1 of Glass City Metropark. We plan to have a ribbon-cutting later this year and will continue to plan for Phase 2 of Glass City Metropark along with supporting the broader Riverwalk project. I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Zenk  
Executive Director
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today to show support from the National Museum of the Great Lakes for the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The National Museum of the Great Lakes is excited to speak on behalf of the Glass City Riverwalk project. Because of our proximity to it and our location along the Maumee River, we believe the Glass City Riverwalk will help us connect our mission to a larger audience. Our museum tells the awe-inspiring stories of our Great Lakes through breathtaking photography, over 300 incredible artifacts, a number of powerful audiovisual displays and 40 hands-on interactive exhibits including the 617-foot iron ore freighter Col. James M. Schoonmaker Museum Ship and the historic Museum Tug Ohio. The Glass City Riverwalk will cross right in front of our museum and museum ships, and help us highlight Toledo’s important connection to the Great Lakes.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Gillcrist
Executive Director,
National Museum of the Great Lakes

1701 Front Street • Toledo, OH 43605 • 419.214.5000 • nmgl.org
April 29, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

This project will also help the ODNR Division of Wildlife fulfill its mission by providing fishing opportunities in the Maumee River; provide nature education settings; and offer boating opportunities. The park will also provide opportunities to engage with new customers for the Division of Wildlife. The ODNR has partnered with many of the organizations that are sponsoring this project.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kendra S. Wecker

Kendra S. Wecker  
Chief
April 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Ohio Department of Transportation actively supports projects that increase mobility and access with multimodal transportation options. This project will increase mobility and access to individuals, including providing better access to individuals in the underserved community.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick McColley, P.E.
District Deputy Director

Excellence in Government

ODOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services
April 29, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

My company is a commercial real estate brokerage and property management firm founded and based in Toledo. Our headquarters offices are located in One Seagate, Toledo’s premier office tower which is located on the Maumee River immediately adjacent to the proposed Riverwalk. We are responsible for managing and attracting new tenants to One Seagate as well as many other properties in the downtown Toledo area. We have been heavily involved in this work in the downtown for my entire career of nearly 40 years. We well know the challenges of attracting occupants back to the central business district and feel very strongly that this project will be catalytic to the redevelopment of not only the central business district but the adjoining residential neighborhood on both sides of the river as well. The successful implementation of this plan will significantly enhance our ability to attract new tenants, new residents and additional private sector investment to the areas around downtown.
Additionally, I personally sit on the Board of ConnecToledo as the representative of the owners of One Seagate who are major funders of ConnecToledo. My clients and I understand how important this piece is to the larger plan that our community has for the remaking our downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. We also understand how widely this plan is supported by the entire community and how well aligned all of the organizations listed above are around this effort.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

[Signature]

Harlan Reichle, CCIM, SIOR
President and CEO
April 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today on behalf of Owens Corning in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Owens Corning is a global industry leader in insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composite materials, and has been for more than 80 years. We are committed to enhancing the quality of life in communities around the world where our employees live and work. This is especially true here in our hometown of Toledo, location of our world headquarters.

We have witnessed tremendous revitalization beginning with the construction of Fifth Third Field and the Huntington Center some 15 years ago, and more recently with the addition of Hensville, Middlegrounds Metropark and the relocation of ProMedica and other businesses to our downtown. We believe the Glass City Riverwalk is the next significant step in this ongoing effort of revitalization. To clearly demonstrate our support, the Owens Corning Foundation has committed $1 million dollars to the development of the Riverwalk.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Director, Community Affairs
Owens Corning
April 21, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project designed to transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

ProMedica is a nationally recognized health and well-being enterprise headquartered in downtown Toledo, immediately adjacent to the Glass City Riverwalk. We recognize the importance of safe, accessible amenities to the continued revitalization of the city, especially as the planned project connects directly into underserved neighborhoods. We are confident that our employees, visitors and residents will benefit from the plan and look forward to supporting the project.
I ask that you strongly consider funding TMACOG’s request in support of this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Barbara J. Petee
Chief Advocacy and Government Relations Officer
April 24, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Regional Growth Partnership is the lead economic development organization serving the Toledo region and 17 counties across Northwest Ohio. With a primary mission of attracting new investment and good-paying jobs to the area, the RGP understands the significance of communities having not just the necessary business assets but also cultural and recreational amenities. This proposed trail will serve as another milestone in the continuing and successful redevelopment of our downtown.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dean Monske
President & CEO
4/29/2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel is a 4 Diamond Hotel that provides 241 luxury guestrooms to travelers of all kinds coming to Toledo. We also have two dining establishments. The Brim House, and our rooftop Bar and Lounge, The Heights. In 2019 the hotel had over 60,000 guests, and over 150,000 more people visited the hotel via our restaurants or through catered events. We believe that the Glass City Riverwalk would be an excellent addition to the city of Toledo, and to the Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Crooks  
General Manager  
Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  

Dear Secretary Chao:  

It is my pleasure to submit this Letter of Support for the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program application.  

TMACOG is requesting grant funding for an intermodal development project along the downtown riverfront entitled Glass City Riverwalk. This exciting and innovative multiuse trail will connect both sides of the waterfront, thereby intersecting economic development, land use, quality of life and accessibility opportunities for residents in our community.  

Downtown Toledo is undergoing a renaissance and investment in a robust, intermodal transportation system is key to its success. TARTA provides fixed route, paratransit, micro-transit and vanpool services in the community and we are also about to embark on an agency-wide transformation. Community grants such as BUILD will allow stakeholders to exponentially leverage federal, state and local funding devoted to public transportation and ensure our planning processes are conducted in collaboration with one another.  

Glass City Riverwalk will be an opportunity for us to think creatively about multimodal connections between bus, bike, pedestrian, rail and other modes. This community is well poised with visionary leaders committed to its success and evolution as a high demand destination location.  

Thank you for your consideration of this request to award BUILD Grant funding to TMACOG that will advance this important project in Downtown Toledo.  

Sincerely yours,  

Kimberly A. Dunham  
General Manager
April 24, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the 2,300 members of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Chamber has led the region’s effort in attracting and retaining a talented workforce. We know that spaces like the proposed Glass City Riverwalk are important to helping our region’s economy grow and attracting the workforce our businesses need to be successful. This project will continue the momentum that our downtown has achieved in recent years.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy R. Gramza, CCE
President & CEO
April 20, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The mission of the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions is to create a community with a high quality of life and access to economic opportunity for all of our residents through, research, planning services, policy development and the promotion and facilitation of activities that lead to collaboration and cooperation among our constituent jurisdictions.

The Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions has partnered with the Connect Toledo and other community organizations to promote the redevelopment of downtown and provide opportunities to support quality of life projects. The Metroparks is a valuable resource and vital partner to the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions. Metroparks’ plan to offer recreational amenities (walking/bicycling paths) is completely in line with the vision and goals outlined in the Toledo 20/20 Comprehensive Plan, which also encourages the development and use of green infrastructure. In this case, the base for the green infrastructure already exists, it just needs to be implemented.
I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Gibbons

Thomas C. Gibbons
Director
April 22, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE,
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the *Glass City Riverwalk*, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the projects is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneCToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Destination Toledo, the Greater Toledo Communication Foundation, and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo. As a leading agency in stimulating economic development and managing the transportation assets in the region, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority believes this project has multiple benefits that will help to move our community forward.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Winston
President & CEO
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail, ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnectToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

George Kral
Chief of Police
May 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide, multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

At over 180 years old, Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) was the first free public library in Ohio. The library serves residents throughout Lucas County and the surrounding region with more than 280,000 cardholders. Like the Metroparks, TLCPL’s expansive physical footprint throughout the county means residents are never far from a local branch. Still, our flagship Main Library and the surrounding central city branches are integral parts of the downtown Toledo development renaissance, and we look forward to this project. Just like the public library is an ongoing investment in our community’s future, so too is the downtown Glass City Riverwalk an investment that will benefit our community today and for decades to come.
May 4, 2020
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Page Two

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Kucsma
Director/Fiscal Officer

JPK/srg
May 1, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590  

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Trust for Public Land is a national leader in park creation and land protection efforts across the country, holding an office in Cleveland for over 40 years, and was an integral partner in Cleveland Metroparks’ Re-Connecting Cleveland TIGER grant project. We enthusiastically support TMACOG in transforming Toledo’s riverfront to simulate economic growth through infrastructure development that connects communities to each other, and to the outdoors by building multiuse trails on both sides of the Maumee River.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shanelle Smith Whigham,  
Ohio State Director  
The Trust for Public Land
May 7, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG has requested funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project that would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. This conductivity will stimulate economic growth between the neighborhoods the trails connect to and downtown establishments.

In addition to The University of Toledo, TMACOG is collaborating with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

TMACOG has our support for its proposal for funding of the Glass City Riverwalk project. Please let me know if you have questions relating to our interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Gaber, Ph.D.  
President
April 27, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Toledo Mud Hens and Toledo Walleye are proud to support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.
The Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club and the Toledo Walleye Hockey Club operate in downtown Toledo and have been catalysts for development and promotion of new business in the downtown area for the past two decades. Along with the Hensville entertainment district, we provide world-class family entertainment in a premier setting. Each year nearly a million people attend games at Fifth Third Field and the Huntington Center as well as concerts and special events at Hensville Park.

Downtown Toledo is fast becoming a regional destination for people to work, live and play. Along with a boom in residential living and a thriving bar, restaurant and entertainment scene, Metroparks Toledo is making great strides to provide leisure activities through completion of the Middlegrounds Metropark on the western bank of the Maumee River, and development of the Glass City Metropark along the eastern riverbank. We fully support the Glass City Riverwalk project aimed at increasing connectivity along the riverfront and furthering opportunities for investment and recreation in the heart of our city.

We ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joseph D. Napoli  
President/CEO  
Toledo Mud Hens and Toledo Walleye

[Signature]

Erik T. Ibsen  
Executive Vice-President/General Manager  
Toledo Mud Hens

[Signature]

Neil R. Neukam  
Executive Vice-President/General Manager  
Toledo Walleye
May 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) for funding in the 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

TMACOG seeks funding for the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program.

TMACOG is partnering in this application with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConnecToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

We Are Traffic is a local non-profit, focusing on efforts to remove inhibitors that discourage everyday transportation by bicycle. It is part of our mission to support good infrastructure projects that encourage the use of bicycles for both transportation and recreation. This project will provide facilities that will increase bicycling opportunities for all age groups.

I ask that you consider assisting TMACOG in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Webb
We Are Traffic – Director
League Cycling Instructor – LCI#1474
Ohio Bicycle Federation – NW Ohio Director
Maumee Valley Adventurers – President 2017-19
Toledo Bikes! – Board Member