



APPENDIX A

Letters of Support



United States Senate

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: City of Chicago – West Side Communities Connectivity Plan Application – Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Chicago's West Side Communities Connectivity Plan application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant program offered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Funding from this program will enable Chicago to advance their ongoing efforts to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods.

Through the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan, the City of Chicago endeavors to address decades of decades of historic disinvestment and community breakup that stems largely from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290). West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side saw the displacement of over 13,000 people and over 400 businesses during the construction of I-290. Understanding that these historic inequities cannot be changed overnight, Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

As a U.S. Senator and member of the Senate Committee of Commerce, Science and Transportation, I have made it a priority to support federal investments that equitably modernize our transportation and infrastructure systems. The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan has the potential to inclusively plan and develop solutions that address decades of disinvestment on the West Side of Chicago. I believe this project aligns with my core goals as a legislator and those of the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Chicago's application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grant program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge your full and fair consideration of this application. Should you have any questions, please contact my Director of Strategic Initiatives, Dan McManus, at (312) 886-3506.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

DANNY DAVIS
7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2159 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5006
(202) 225-5641 (FAX)

CHICAGO OFFICE:
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CHICAGO, IL 60612
(773) 533-7520
(844) 274-0426 (FAX)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RANKING MEMBER:
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER:
HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is written to support the City of Chicago's application for **Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)** funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the city will work together with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

I ask for your careful review of this application to provide **Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods** funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
7th District, IL

DKD/cgo

MONIQUE L. SCOTT
ALDERWOMAN, 24TH WARD

1158 S. KEELER AVE.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624
PHONE: 773-533-2400
FAX: 773-722-2400
E-MAIL: WARD24@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-6839
FAX: 312-744-6572

September 5, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

Monique L. Scott
24th Ward Alderwoman

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

EDUCATION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES AND RULES
CONTRACT OVERSIGHT AND EQUITY
ECONOMIC, CAPITAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
FINANCE
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTIONS
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY
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COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL, ROOM 300
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-3325

MICHAEL D. RODRÍGUEZ

ALDERPERSON - 22ND WARD

PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE

2500 SOUTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60623
TELEPHONE: (773) 762-1771
FAX: (773) 762-1825
WARD22@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (CHAIR)
AVIATION
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COMMITTEES AND RULES
FINANCE
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND RECREATION
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Alderperson of the 22nd Ward I would like to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Rodríguez
Alderperson, 22nd Ward



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

JENNIFER "SIS" KILLEN, P.E., PTOE

SUPERINTENDENT

69 West Washington Street, 24th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1601

September 6, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Letter of support for the City of Chicago's West Side Communities Connectivity Plan
RCN Program application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) funding* to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

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TONI PRECKWINKLE

PRESIDENT

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Page 2

Re: Letter of support for the City of Chicago's West Side Communities Connectivity Plan
RCN Program application

I thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer 'Sis' Killen". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jennifer "Sis" Killen, P.E., PTOE

Superintendent

Department of Transportation and Highways

Cook County, Illinois



Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
President

Chicago Transit Authority

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorval R. Carter, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
President, Chicago Transit Authority



September 6, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is pleased to support the City of Chicago's application to the Reconnecting Communities program for funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

As the comprehensive regional planning organization of northeastern Illinois, CMAP is committed to supporting initiatives that promote transportation safety and accessibility, support economic mobility, and enhance equity. The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

Once again, CMAP supports the City of Chicago's Reconnecting Communities application for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan. The project will also support the Administration's Justice40 goals, enhance travel safety and accessibility, and help foster economic opportunity.

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Executive Director

Erin Aleman



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607
cmap.illinois.gov | 312-454-0400

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Aleman".

Erin Aleman
Executive Director

KH:EA

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization working on urban planning and policy solutions in greater Chicago. We were pleased to develop a local [Reconnecting Communities](#) report in partnership with many community leaders from the west side of Chicago to document the harms of highway infrastructure and identify project solution for repairing communities. A number of needs were identified along the I-290 corridor that are reflected in this grant application.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

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Weldon Development Group

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Darlene Oliver Hightower •

Executive Committee •



This application is a reflection of partnership between the nonprofit advocacy community, local stakeholders and the City of Chicago to come to consensus on an area of focus for future investment. We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene O. Hightower". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Darlene Hightower, J.D.
President & CEO



35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1782
Chicago, IL 60601-2314

312.427.3325
info@activetrans.org
activetrans.org

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express Active Transportation Alliance's full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

As an organization that works to promote walking, biking, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities, this project aligns closely with Active Transportation Alliance's missions and values.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Rynell", written in a cursive style.

Amy Rynell, Executive Director



9/5/2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan. This project strongly aligns with CNT's mission, which is to deliver innovative analysis and solutions that support community-based organizations and local governments to create neighborhoods that are equitable, sustainable, and resilient.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Idemudia".

Nina Idemudia
CEO, Center for Neighborhood Technology



9/14/2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

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Austin Coming Together is a collective impact organization comprised of more than 50 organizations committed to creating a thriving Austin community. Our mission is to increase the collective impact of our member organizations on improving education and economic development outcomes for Austin. As a backbone agency, we were also able to leverage current relationships and spearhead efforts to convene Task Forces composed of over 500 community residents, ACT members, and leaders from local and citywide organizations to specifically discuss how Austin can best move forward together. The culmination of all that hard work and dedication is the Austin Forward. Together. (AFT) community plan, created and owned by the Austin community. Since completing the massive planning and mobilization stage back in December 2018, we have been working with partners to implement the 84 actions in the 7 issue areas (Community Narrative, Economic Development, Education, Housing, Public Safety, Youth Empowerment, and Civic Engagement) laid out in the plan. The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan directly addresses Economic Development Strategy 1: Improve transportation infrastructure to and through Austin.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darnell Shields, Jr.'.

Darnell Shields, Jr.
Executive Director
Austin Coming Together
dshields@austincomingtogether.org
773-417-8613

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5049 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60644

773.417.8601 | ACT@AustinComingTogether.org | AustinComingTogether.org



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Fax: (312) 922-7039
www.saferfoundation.org

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Steve Watts
Fifth Third Bank

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

The west side of Chicago is where a vast majority of residents return from incarceration. Access to employment and other critical services for this community is critical to ensure Returning Residents have opportunities that reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Recidivism reduction makes our city healthier and safer. **Safer Foundation is a 51-year-old social impact agency focused on ensuring that people with arrest & conviction records become self-sufficient and law-abiding residents of our community. We provide a comprehensive set of evidence-based workforce development services, behavioral health services and housing pre and post release from incarceration.**

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

Victor Dickson
President & CEO



September 10, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Regards,

Jesse A. Green
Executive Director
North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC)



September 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

The North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) supports this project as we envision North Lawndale as a healthy, vibrant community with a diversified and innovative economy, competitive work force, engaged citizens and infrastructure that supports long term, sustainable growth. We would like see new infrastructure and environmental changes as part of addressing the safety in the communities that depend on the movement of I-290 without having to expand the roads any further.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Jackson

Rochelle R. Jackson
Chair, NLCCC Transportation/Infrastructure Committee



North Lawndale Employment Network

Creating a Community That Works

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1111 S. Homan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60624

773.638.1825

nlen.org | beelovebuzz.com

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express North Lawndale Employment Network's support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) is a place-based, non-profit workforce development organization whose mission is to



North Lawndale Employment Network

Creating a Community That Works

increase the earnings potential of the North Lawndale community of Chicago through innovative employment initiatives that lead to economic advancement and an improved quality of life. NLEN directly addresses the interconnected problems of poverty, trauma, and unemployment in North Lawndale and the surrounding communities on the West Side of Chicago.

Just as NLEN's work, The City of Chicago's West Side Communities Connectivity Plan aims to address the root causes of poverty. Our work is interconnected and rooted in the imperative of systemic change to close the gaps and ensure equity in every area of the social determinants of health and improved quality of life for City residents.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Palms".

Brenda Palms
President and CEO
North Lawndale Employment Network



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F (773) 588.7762
www.ucanchicago.org

September 7, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, including North Lawndale, where UCAN is headquartered, have been historically disinvested through discriminatory policies, then exacerbated by the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s. UCAN, a 154-year-old agency serving youth and families in Chicago, strongly supports the City of Chicago's hopes to improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of a car-centric built environment. As a close neighbor to I-290, UCAN is highly invested in and supportive of this study.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. Given UCAN's longstanding commitment to helping individuals, families, and communities heal from trauma, we are excited for the potential community-strengthening effect of these developments.

Thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

Christa A. Hamilton
President/CEO

September 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

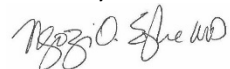
The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

Mount Sinai Hospital has been an anchor for North Lawndale for over 100 years, caring for our community through waves of both prosperity and tumult. For decades, it has been one of the largest employers in the neighborhood, while providing quality healthcare and hope to a highly underserved community. Today, under the Sinai Chicago umbrella, our system is inclusive of four hospitals, over 15 community clinics, a research institute, and a community institute, and remains a community cornerstone dedicated to serving the most vulnerable through healthcare, community service, research, and local economic development.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ngozi Ezike".

Dr. Ngozi Ezike
President/CEO



3343 W Douglas Blvd, Chicago, IL 60623

September 11, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to express our full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

Homan Grown L3C is committed to creating beautiful landscapes for our communities on the West Side and it is our hope that the Connectivity Plan will also bring beauty as well as connectivity to our transit corridors.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

With much appreciation,

Annamaria León
Annamaria León, Co-Owner
Homan Grown L3C
Amjleon5@gmail.com
414-339-5537

Reshorna Fitzpatrick
Reshorna Fitzpatrick, Co-Owner
Homan Grown L3C
reshorna@gmail.com
773-297-1189

People's Community Development Association of Chicago, Inc.

3570 W. Fifth Avenue

Chicago, IL 60624- Email:michaeleaddy@sbcglobal.net – Phone 773 533-6877

September 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The People's Community Development Association of Chicago, Inc., a 501c3 organization is writing to express our full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290. The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

The mission of The People's Community Development Association of Chicago, Inc. (PCDAC) is to provide opportunities for returning citizens, at risk youth and economically disenfranchised residents of the Greater Westside Community of Chicago. The objective is to assist individuals in achieving self-sufficiency. PCDAC has its primary focus in three areas: Affordable Housing, Youth Initiatives & Employment Training and Job Placement. The PCDAC Board, through its partnerships, envisions a future where it influences change in residents, so that they will become economically independent and homeowners, who contribute value to the Greater Westside Community of Chicago in new ways.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan. I can be reached directly at 773 531-4411.

Sincerely,

Michael Eaddy

Michael Eaddy, President