

RESOLUTION 122-2023

*Authorizing the Filing of an Application for NOACA TLCI Grant
The Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan Township Regional Connector*

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Trustee *Zuer* Moved for adoption of the Following:

Be It Resolved by the Township Trustees of Olmsted Township

WHEREAS, the Olmsted Township Board of Trustees (“Board”) is committed to improving the public infrastructure and facilities of Olmsted Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (“Township”), for the benefit of all residents and visitors of the Township, without discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (“TLCI”), provided and administered through the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (“NOACA”), provides assistance to communities for integrated transportation, land use planning, and projects that strengthen community livability; and

WHEREAS, the TLCI is designed to advance the following objectives:

Develop transportation projects that provide more travel options through complete streets and context sensitive solutions, increasing user safety and supporting positive public health impacts;

Promote reinvestment in underutilized or vacant/abandoned properties through development concepts supported by multimodal transportation systems;

Support economic development through place-based transportation and land use recommendations, and connect these proposals with existing assets and investments;

Ensuring that the benefits of growth and change are available to all members of a community by integrating principles of accessibility and environmental justice into projects;

Enhance regional cohesion by supporting collaboration between regional and community partners; and

Provide people with safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified a Project, described more-fully in the attached Exhibit hereto, which advances the objectives of the TLCI program stated above; and

WHEREAS, having identified an eligible TLCI Project, the Board is qualified to submit a TLCI Grant Application for State Fiscal Year 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Trustees that:

1. The accompanying 2024 NOACA TLCI Grant Application be submitted for the Project.
2. The Board hereby certifies that, in the informed judgment of the Board, the Project proposed for TLCI grant funding satisfies the objectives of the TLCI Program, as set forth herein.

Trustee Alton seconded the Motion, and thereupon, the votes in favor of this Resolution were recorded and reflected by the signatures hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of Township Trustees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Adopted the 27th day of October, 2023.

Attest: Brian W. Sullitt
Township Fiscal Officer

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Township Trustees

EXHIBIT IN SUPPORT OF OLMSTED TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION

Application for NOACA TLCI Grant The Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan Township Regional Connector

The Olmsted Township Board of Trustees has identified the area including Columbia Road and Usher Road, for the installation or other improvement of on-road bicycle facilities and off-road, all-purpose trails, as part of the Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan (the "Project"). More particularly, these areas will support the Regional Links identified as RL-2 and KR-5 of the Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan.

This Project will serve a significant number of residents, with the primary goal of expanding access, safety, convenience, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Because the Cuyahoga County Greenways Plan is designed to include integration with the public transportation network and employment centers, this Project will, in addition, advance commercial and economic development for the general welfare of the Township by providing mobility options for established commercial operations for the adjacent residential neighborhoods. The enhancement of the Township's residential areas in this fashion is instrumental to the prevention of blight.

The Township is committed to this Project, in light of the significant improvement toward the quality of life within the Community as a whole. Given all of these benefits, the Township is planning a contribution up to \$200,000 to carry out this Project, in the event the Township can leverage grant assistance toward the anticipated total cost. In the absence of grant contributions, funding to satisfy the entire estimated cost of the Project is not currently readily available.

Brian Gillette, Olmsted Township Fiscal Officer

OLMSTED TOWNSHIP
ENDORSEMENT OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY GREENWAYS PLAN

Olmsted Township is proud to be a Participating and Supporting Community for the Cuyahoga County Greenways Vision and Plan. The Plan represents a commitment to developing an interconnected system of transportation and recreational facilities to improve the lives of all who live in, work in, and visit Cuyahoga County.

As perhaps best expressed in the Plan itself:

Cuyahoga Greenways is a county wide initiative to envision, plan, and implement greenways and urban trails throughout Cuyahoga County. Facilities will connect public transportation and parks to offer recreational opportunities and options for getting around the county, improving the community's mobility options, health, well-being, and economic vitality. Cuyahoga Greenways seeks to build an interconnected network that is safe and welcoming for people of all ages, abilities, and demographics, changing the way people think about and move around the county.

Cuyahoga County encompasses 458 square miles. The 59 municipalities in the county vary in terms of size, demographics, job base, and access to commercial and recreational resources. Transit services are provided by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), which faces budget challenges. Automobiles dominate transportation, particularly given development now covers twice as much of the county as in 1950. Providing safe alternative means of transportation to access jobs, schools, commercial destinations, and recreation opportunities in a sprawling region is essential and can have a positive impact on the overall quality of life for residents.

Cuyahoga County is fortunate to contain a large network of existing trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks. One hundred miles of regional trails lie within Cleveland Metroparks "Emerald Necklace" of parks, providing access to natural space and recreational opportunities through the county's riparian corridors. In addition, there are approximately 165 miles of trails plus bicycle lanes built by local municipalities. As an urbanized and nearly built-out county, opportunities for setting aside natural areas are limited. The focus for new routes will be on retrofitting existing vacant or underutilized spaces.

Olmsted Township fully embraces these aspirations in its support for the Plan. "Cuyahoga Greenways is one step towards addressing the fluctuating conditions and residual challenges to improving mobility, spatial disparities, and geographic inequalities in the region. If residents can have greater connectivity to parks, open space, schools, and jobs centers, all future growth may become more inclusive, sustainable, and will lead to healthier and more equitable outcomes for larger segments of the community."

Trustee Jeanene Kress
Trustee Lisa Zver
Trustee Riley Alton
Fiscal Officer Brian Gillette

