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Meet the 10 nominated highways in CNU’s 2023 Freeways Without Futures report

These ten campaigns illustrate the strength of the Highways to Boulevards movement and envision reparative infrastructure that reknits communities, addresses damage caused by highways, and centers community priorities.

Washington, DC -- The 2023 Freeways Without Futures report from Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is available now! Meet the ten campaigns working to transform the highways in their communities into assets like city streets, housing, green space, and more.

The history of urban freeways in North America has been one of inequity and induced demand. Now, with many of these hulking, burdensome highways reaching the end of their useful lifespans, communities are looking for alternatives to costly highway repair and expansion. The ten campaigns in this report offer a pathway to better health, equity, opportunity, and connectivity in every neighborhood, while reversing decades of decline and disinvestment.

The 10 nominated freeways in the report are:

- Interstate 787 – Albany, NY
- Interstate 35 – Austin, TX
- US 40 Expressway – Baltimore, MD
- Interstate 794 – Milwaukee, WI
- State Highway 55/Olson Memorial Highway – Minneapolis, MN
- Interstate 94 – Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN
- Interstate 980 – Oakland, CA
- State Route 99 – Seattle, WA
- Interstate 244 – Tulsa, OK
- US Route 422 – Youngstown, OH

This year’s report is also the first to coincide with acknowledgement from the federal government of the inequitable and harmful impacts of urban highway construction. Five of the campaigns featured in this report received funding from US DOT for planning and studies to further augment the work already being done in their local communities to make their visions of a freeway-free future a reality.

As end-stage urban freeways and their adjacent corridors present opportunities to transform broken liabilities into assets, elected officials and citizens alike can be advocates for transformations that support socially and economically valuable places.

About CNU
The Congress for the New Urbanism’s (CNU) mission is to champion walkable urbanism. We provide resources, education, and technical assistance to create socially just, economically robust, environmentally resilient, and people centered places. We leverage New Urbanism’s unique integration of design and social principles to advance three key goals: to diversify neighborhoods, to design for climate change, and to legalize walkable places. Visit cnu.org for more.