

September 27, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of a nationwide coalition of campaigns seeking to reimagine freeway corridors in American cities, the Congress for the New Urbanism, along with the 86 undersigned organizations, calls on our leaders in Congress to support the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants proposed by the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee for the current reconciliation bill and include this program as part of any final infrastructure package.

We are thrilled with the transformative power that the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants will have for the over 10 million Americans who live adjacent to major transportation corridors. Too often, their communities bear the brunt of a highway's ill effects, from the noxious emissions leading to lifelong health conditions to the severe disinvestment that drives away local businesses, services, and amenities. The Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants represent a historic investment in these communities and help them heal from the damage highways have caused. By funding freeway capping and highways-to-boulevards projects, these grants have the power to build new infrastructure that improves residents' quality of life and supports more environmentally and economically resilient communities.

We are particularly impressed with the grant program's prioritization of economically disadvantaged and underserved communities, often the communities of color considered expendable when highways are built. In particular, we applaud the grant program's provision that grantees have anti-displacement protections in place before undertaking construction. Studies show that freeway capping and highways-to-boulevards projects generate immense economic benefits. They also show that projects removing infrastructure barriers can also increase the potential for the displacement of long standing residents, who find themselves priced out of their communities. Anti-displacement protections are a necessary step to ensure that the people living around highways now benefit from the investments made by the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants.

Finally, this grant program represents a true commitment to the Build Back Better pledge to deliver environmental justice and address climate change through new infrastructure investments. Its focus on building sustainable and affordable transportation infrastructure that reduces the emissions of greenhouse gases, dissipates the effects of urban heat islands, and better manages stormwater runoff and flooding backs the concepts of equity, sustainability, and community described by the Secretary of Transportation and the White House.

The Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants are an investment in both the physical and social infrastructure of our country, where more often than not one's ZIP code serves as an indicator of access to opportunities. This program increases the number of communities whose physical environment will no longer hold them back from opportunity. For all the reasons included in this letter, we urge you to support the inclusion of the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants in the reconciliation bill.

Thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,



Ben Crowther  
Program Manager  
The Highways to Boulevards Initiative  
Congress for the New Urbanism



**Congress for the  
New Urbanism**  
Congress for the New  
Urbanism  
Washington, DC



**Transportation  
for America**  
Transportation for America  
Washington, DC



**Transit Riders of the US  
Together**  
Nationwide



**NACTO**  
National Association of City  
Transportation Officials  
New York, NY



**peopleforbikes**  
PeopleForBikes  
Boulder, CO



CITY OF OAKLAND  
**The City of Oakland**  
Oakland, CA



**THIRD WAY**  
Third Way  
Washington, DC



**CNT**  
Sustainable Communities  
Attainable Results  
Center for Neighborhood  
Technology  
Chicago, IL



**ConnectOakland**  
Oakland, CA



**America Walks**  
Annandale, VA



**SHARED-USE  
MOBILITY CENTER**  
Shared-Use Mobility Center  
Chicago, IL



**SPUR**  
San Francisco, CA



**Connecticut Roundtable on  
Climate and Jobs**  
*Clinton, CT*

**#blvtampa**  
*Tampa, FL*

 **Collective Form**  
**Collective Form**  
*St. Petersburg, FL*



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION  
ALLIANCE  
**Active Transportation  
Alliance**  
*Chicago, IL*



**CNU**  
**ILLINOIS**  
**Congress for the New  
Urbanism, Illinois Chapter**  
*Chicago, IL*



**The Endealeo Institute, Inc.**  
*Chicago, IL*

**EQUITICITY**

**The Equiticity Racial Equity  
Movement**  
*Chicago, IL*



**Foundation for Homan Square**  
*Chicago, IL*

  
**Metropolitan Planning  
Council**  
*Chicago, IL*



**8664**  
*Louisville, KY*



**Acadian Group of the Sierra  
Club**  
*Lafayette, LA*



**Allendale Strong**  
*Shreveport, LA*



**Claiborne Avenue Alliance**  
*New Orleans, LA*



**Culture House**  
*Somerville, MA*



**Sunrise Worcester**  
*Worcester, MA*



**Transportation for  
Massachusetts**  
*Boston, MA*



**DETROIT  
GREENWAYS  
COALITION**  
**Detroit Greenways Coalition**  
*Detroit, MI*



**Henry Ford Health System**  
*Detroit, MI*



**Duluth Waterfront Collective**  
*Duluth, MN*

**our streets** MPLS

**Our Streets Minneapolis**  
*Minneapolis, MN*



**Reclaim Community**  
*Jasper, MN*

**Sweetwater Alliance**  
*Duluth, MN*



**Downtown Council of Kansas City**  
Kansas City, MO



**Urban Land Institute, Kansas City**  
Kansas City, MO



**Seven Oaks Society**  
Orange, NJ



**Albany Riverfront Collaborative**  
Albany, NY



**The Future of Small Cities Institute**  
Troy, NY



**GObike**  
Buffalo, NY



**Institute for Public Architecture**  
New York, NY



**The Scajaquada Corridor Coalition**  
Buffalo, NY



**Urban Design Center of Syracuse**  
Syracuse, NY



**VISION NIAGARA**  
Buffalo, NY  
**Vision Niagara, Inc.**  
Buffalo, NY

**Durham Freeways to Boulevards Justice Project**  
Durham, NC



**Urban3**  
Asheville, NC



**Bridge Forward Cincinnati**  
Cincinnati, OH

**Transform Tulsa Alliance**  
Tulsa, OK



**Business for a Better Portland**  
Portland, OR



**No More Freeways**  
Portland, OR



**Parking Reform Network**  
Portland, OR



**Place Initiative**  
Portland, OR



**Ride Report**  
Portland, OR



**Catholic Social Action**  
Pittsburgh, PA



**CIVITAS.design**  
Erie, PA



**Connect Urban Erie**  
Erie, PA



**Air Alliance Houston**  
Houston, TX

**AURA**  
Austin, TX



**Austin Outside**  
Austin, TX

**BIKEAUSTIN**  
Bike Austin  
Austin, TX



**Bike Houston**  
Houston, TX

## COALITION FOR A NEW DALLAS

**Coalition for a New Dallas**  
Dallas, TX



**CTX**  
Congress for the New  
Urbanism, Central Texas  
Chapter  
Austin, TX



**Farm & City**  
Austin, TX

**Freeways for the People**  
El Paso, TX

## LINK HOUSTON

**LINK Houston**  
Houston, TX



**Reconnect Austin**  
Austin, TX



**Rethink35**  
Austin, TX



**Save Our Springs Alliance**  
Austin, TX



**Stop TxDOT I-45**  
Houston, TX



**Velo Paso Bicycle-Pedestrian Coalition**  
El Paso, TX

## Walk Austin

**Walk Austin**  
Austin, TX



**Cultivate South Park**  
Seattle, WA



**Disability Mobility Initiative, Disability Rights Washington**  
Seattle, WA



**Lid I-5**  
*Seattle, WA*

**Move  
Redmond**



**Move Redmond**  
*Redmond, WA*

SEATTLE **PARKS** FOUNDATION

**Seattle Parks Foundation**  
*Seattle, WA*



**Transportation Choices  
Coalition**  
*Seattle, WA*



**1000 Friends of Wisconsin**  
*Madison, WI*



**Bublr Bikes**  
*Milwaukee, WI*

LAW OFFICE OF DENNIS M. GRZEZINSKI

Environmental Law and Civil Litigation

**Law Office of Dennis M.  
Grzezinski**  
*Milwaukee, WI*



**MILWAUKEE  
RIVERKEEPER®**  
**Milwaukee Riverkeeper**  
*Milwaukee, WI*



**Wisconsin Faith Voices for  
Justice**  
*Madison, WI*



**Wisconsin Transit Riders  
Alliance**  
*Madison, WI*