

September 22, 2021

Dear members of Congress,

On behalf of a nationwide coalition of campaigns seeking to reimagine freeway corridors in American cities, we, the 84 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.



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



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



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



**THIRD WAY**  
**Third Way**  
*Washington, DC*



**America Walks**  
*Annandale, VA*



**peopleforbikes**  
**PeopleForBikes**  
*Boulder, CO*



**Center for Neighborhood  
Technology**  
*Chicago, IL*



**Shared-Use Mobility Center**  
*Chicago, IL*



**Transit Riders of the US  
Together**  
*Nationwide*



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



**ConnectOakland**  
*Oakland, CA*

**Puente Latino Association**  
*Long Beach, CA*



**SPUR**  
*San Francisco, CA*

**#blvtampa**  
*Tampa, FL*



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



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



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



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

# EQUITICITY

The Equiticity Racial Equity  
Movement  
Chicago, IL



Foundation for Homan Square  
Chicago, IL

Metropolitan **Planning** Council  
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, 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, Inc.**  
*Buffalo, NY*

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



**Urban3**  
*Asheville, NC*

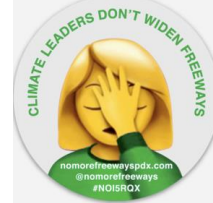


**Bridge Forward Cincinnati**  
*Cincinnati, OH*

**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*



**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



**Bike Austin**  
Austin, TX



**Bike Houston**  
Houston, TX



**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



**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**  
Austin, TX



**Cultivate South Park**  
Seattle, WA



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



**Lid I-5**  
Seattle, WA



**Move Redmond**  
Redmond, WA



**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*