

2024



RAISE and Reconnect Toledo's Historic Neighborhoods

Letters of Support

**RAISE Grant
Application**



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The Ability Center

February 20, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

THE ABILITY CENTER

5605 MONROE STREET
SYLVANIA, OH 43560
419.885.5733

BRYAN SATELLITE OFFICE

1425 EAST HIGH STREET
SUITE 108
BRYAN, OH 43506
419.633.1400

abilitycenter.org

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, I request your support of Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo advocates, educates, partners, and provides services supporting people with disabilities to thrive within their community. Our vision, in partnership with agencies like Metroparks Toledo, is to make our community the most disability friendly in the nation. Defining "disability friendly" as a community that values and welcomes the potential and participation of each of its citizens and visitors, the Ability Center is focusing on housing, transportation, education, employment, the medical community and inclusive spaces.

Please consider assisting Metroparks and the Toledo region in achieving the goal of funding this critical project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stuart James
Executive Director



1119 N Summit Street Suite 114
Toledo, OH 43604
567-275-1535
ambrea@arktoledo.com

February 21, 2024



Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:



I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

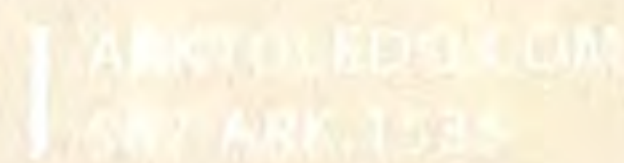
Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

ARK Restoration and Construction is changing the narrative of neighborhoods through development, construction and management. Our mission is to restore communities and craft, deliver innovation and new ideas, and build with an eye towards the future. Green space is severely lacking in the Vistula and East Toledo communities and goes hand in hand with the re-development of historic homes and buildings. They are of the utmost importance in neighborhoods that traditionally lack investment and are vital to the success of Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ambrea Mikolajczyk
Owner ARK Restoration & Construction





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Gail Zimmerman
Robert Zollweg

February 9, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which promises to transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Arts Commission provides quality arts programming and services to the Toledo area and works collaboratively to build a creative and cultural community in Toledo, inspire vibrancy in our neighborhoods, and to celebrate life through art through innovative programming, public art, artist services, inclusive youth programs, and community events. As the leading organization in Toledo driving creative placemaking efforts, the Arts Commission engages artists and organizations to lead creative efforts that speak to neighborhood community, culture, and revitalization. We feel strongly that resident-led engagement drives civic change that inspires reuse of public spaces, creates healthier, safer environments, and increases the vibrancy of our greater community.

We stand with the partners in this project and our community and ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Folk
President and Chief Executive Officer





Wade Kapszukiewicz
Mayor

mayor@toledo.oh.gov
phone 419-245-1001
fax 419-245-1370
One Government Center
Suite 2200
Toledo, Ohio 43604
toledo.oh.gov

February 13, 2024

United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program. As the Mayor of the City of Toledo, I urge you to give special consideration to this amazing project and the tremendous impact it will have not just on the City of Toledo, but our entire region.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor
City of Toledo



300 Madison Avenue, Suite 0110 - Toledo, Ohio 43604

February 5, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of ConnecToledo, Downtown Development Corporation, I request your support of Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

ConnecToledo is a non-profit, membership organization comprised of the area's largest institutions. Our role is to advance downtown redevelopment, economic development, urban planning, placemaking and marketing. The further development of the Glass City Riverwalk has been identified a key project for downtown's success. As an organization, we have committed and will continue to prioritize resources for our riverfront's development and this project.

Please consider assisting Metroparks and the Toledo region in achieving the goal of funding this critical project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul L. Toth', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul L. Toth
President

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal for funds through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

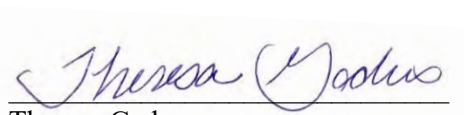
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Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As the District Three Toledo City Council Member I believe this project will have a long lasting positive impact on the residents of my district. The river front is an integral part of the East Toledo neighborhoods and making them more accessible to these residents would improve their quality of life and make accessing work and recreation options much less complicated.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Theresa Gadus
Council Member District Three

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal for funds through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As the District Four Toledo City Council Member I believe this project will have a lasting, positive impact on the residents of my district, in particular, the Vistula neighborhood. I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Vanice Williams,
Toledo City Council Member
District Four



401 Jefferson Avenue p: 419-321-6404 Toledo, Ohio
43604-1067 f: 419-321-5040 www.visittoledo.org

February 4, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Travel and Tourism industry provides \$2.7 Billion in economic impact and employs over 30,000 people in the Greater Toledo Region. As the official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for Lucas County and the Greater Toledo Region, Destination Toledo recognizes the importance of a connected, activated riverfront for attracting visitation to the area. The Glass City Riverwalk makes it attractive for large groups of visitors to arrive by personal watercraft, passenger ferry, or cruise ship. The project opens many possibilities for multi-modal transport to and from Toledo and will lead to further economic growth and well-being of the entire region.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lance Woodworth

Lance Woodworth
President & CEO



February 12, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Greater Toledo Community Foundation (GTCF) is committed to making our region a better place to live. We work with individuals, families and businesses in our region to promote and facilitate charitable giving. GTCF focuses on long-term projects that build resources for future generations. A vibrant community is important to all of us, and downtown redevelopment is a critical piece in improving our community. GTCF has supported the Glass City Riverwalk through grantmaking and other resources over the years. We believe this project will complete the transformation we've seen in the downtown riverfront and trust that Metroparks Toledo are equipped to lead this community initiative. The project will connect us all in so many ways.

We stand with the partners in this project and our community and ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Burwell
President



300 Madison Avenue Suite 1300 Toledo, OH 43604 E: toledocf@toledocf.org W: toledocf.org P: 419.241.5049

February 5, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As the Executive Director of the Historic Vistula Community Awareness Connection (HVCAC), I've been advocating for the Vistula neighborhood for the past decades, bringing neighborhood interests and concerns before community leaders and encouraging investments in the neighborhood. In collaboration with other Vistula advocates, we've stressed the importance of recognizing Vistula's rich history since it's the city's **FIRST neighborhood, located within walking distance of downtown Toledo**. *Investment and preservation are key to its survival and success*. This district has a wide range of small businesses, new housing investments, and planned improvements like the **Glass City Riverwalk Project**. Both neighbors and businesses alike advocate and support our Metroparks and the initiatives they are involved in, to include new development in the historic Vistula district.

As a longtime board member of the Historic Vistula Historic Foundation, a board member of the Toledo Design Collective, an executive board member of Leading Families Home/Beach House1/2, and a commissioner for the Toledo Historic Commission, I ask that you consider **assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project**. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Sue Pearson, Executive Director
Historic Vistula Community Awareness Connection
Vistula Business Owner & Advocate



February 5, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I would like to share my support for the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

This funding will further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a long-neglected opportunity for economic growth and vitality, that will transform the Downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, including parking lots and transit stops that will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for all. Not only does this help connect our neighborhoods and provide economic opportunity, but it will also allow us to promote health and well-being initiatives throughout the region.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of Downtown Toledo.

In addition to being a citizen of Toledo that enjoys our enhanced waterfront, I am a stakeholder in our most underserved riverfront neighborhood, Vistula. Vistula is Toledo's first neighborhood and represents the cultural heritage of our great City. Not only does our neighborhood have significant economic hardship but also the lowest life expectancy in the area. The residents of Vistula will benefit significantly from this investment and the impact will be felt for generations to come. In partnership with the Vistula Foundation and Metroparks Toledo, the Glass City Riverwalk will maximize community-centric development that provides the people with opportunity, engagement, and educational resources.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Andrew Newby
Vistula Foundation, Chairman

February 21, 2024



Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to offer my support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

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Imagination Station is Toledo's science center. Each year, 200,000 people visit our family-friendly educational facility. Our facility overlooks the river, and benefits greatly from the Glass City Riverwalk project. Foot traffic on the Riverwalk and boaters' use of nearby boat docks improves access to the science center. Additional transportation options and parking lots, along with the project's proposed direct connections from the trail to other downtown locations and venues makes it easier for a wide range of people to visit the science center.

The Glass City Riverwalk offers an exciting vision for a thriving Toledo waterfront, and I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Hauser
Chief Executive Officer

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Toledo is pleased to support the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

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Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a national community development financial institution that works with community-based organizations to create neighborhoods of choice – great places to work, do business and raise children. Since 1979, LISC has invested \$29.7 billion in communities, which supported 489,261 affordable homes built or preserved as well as 81.5 million square feet of retail, community, and educational space developed. LISC investments have leveraged more than \$82 billion across the country for initiatives related to better housing, businesses, safety, health, and jobs. In 2023, LISC invested \$1.35 million in four core Toledo neighborhoods, two of which would directly benefit from the Riverwalk project.

LISC Toledo firmly believes that Metroparks Toledo has the capacity and experience to be successful with the RAISE Program. I once again offer my full support of Metroparks' application and ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Please reach out if you have any further questions at (419) 719-5669 or tkroma@lisc.org. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Tom Kroma
Executive Director

February 16, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

In Re: Toledo Metroparks Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Established in 1933, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) now continues to provide affordable housing to adults, seniors, and children in its Affordable Housing (commonly known as Low Income Public Housing or LIPH), Housing Choice Voucher, Mixed-Income and Market-Rate housing units. LMH also provides a variety of programs and opportunities designed to improve the quality of life for our residents, with the goal of achieving self-sufficiency. The programs and services are the result of successful collaborations with numerous community partners.

LMH has four properties, Vistula Manor, Weiler Homes and Spieker Terrace, Ravine Park Village, and Birmingham Terrace located close to the where the project is located. LMH works closely with community partners to provide services and support to residents. Most recently a partnership was created with the Islamic Food bank to open a location at Spieker Terrace to provide access to healthy food.

LMH is the recipient of the JOBS Plus grant which is a grant to support Ravine Park and Birmingham Terrace communities with workforce development initiatives onsite. It provides job opportunities and resources for employment, job training, educational attainment and support leading to self-sufficiency. Residents also have the added opportunity of the JOBS PLUS Earned Income Disallowance (JPEID) which allows for their rent to not increase while enrolled in the program over its duration.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

782F1E9C129E46D...
Rachel M. Gagnon
Deputy Executive Director

Cc: Libby Schoen
Chief Programs Officer



February 16, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Mercy Health is committed to the redevelopment of the downtown area. Over the past several years, the Ministry has spent more than \$40M dollars on Cherry Street, one of the main arteries into downtown Toledo. Furthermore, in early 2024, Mercy Health committed resources to Historic Vistula's Friendly Center, a community center that will sit adjacent to the Glass City Riverwalk, to promote community health and engagement. The development of the Glass City Riverwalk is an ideal addition to the investments that Mercy Health is making in the community.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Smith".

Kendra N. Smith, AICP MPH MSUS
Vice President, Community Health



1600 Front Street / Toledo, OH 43605
(419) 693-7717 / www.toledoconstruction.com



SHAUN ENRIGHT
*Executive Secretary/
Business Manager*

February 12, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

ROY B. GROSSWILER
President

MIKE KUJAWA
Vice-President

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

JAMIE PEPPERS
*Financial Secretary/
Treasurer*

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

KHRIS SHIVELY
Recording Secretary

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

SANTOS FLORES
Sergeant-at-Arms

DAVID FLEETWOOD
Trustee

RICK SALISBURY
Trustee

This investment in infrastructure is expected to create a significant influx of construction jobs. Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council ("NWOBTC") represents over 17,000 of the construction workers who will benefit from this job creation. Additionally, Metroparks Toledo has demonstrated its commitment to responsible job creation by adopting a project labor agreement ("PLA") for its construction project. The requirements of the PLA protect taxpayers and our community and help ensure that construction project delivery is on-time, on-or-under budget, and with the highest quality workforce in accordance with area standards for wages and benefits.

MATT CHERRY
Trustee

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Our community needs the jobs that will be created by the infrastructure projects and deserves the increased access to services, opportunities, and amenities this project will provide. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shaun Enright
Executive Secretary/Business Manager
Northwest Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Kendra S. Wecker, Chief

Division of Wildlife
2045 Morse Rd, Building G
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: (614) 265-6300

February 6, 2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Ohio Division of Wildlife supports the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk. This project will transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River. The trail will be connected at each end with pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo on this project. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Completion of this trail will increase accessibility for wildlife enthusiasts who wish to use the area for recreational fishing, wildlife watching, and boating opportunities. Additionally, the area will provide a nature education setting for outreach experiences to engage with the local community. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has partnered with many of the organizations that are sponsoring this project.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kendra S. Wecker".

Kendra S. Wecker
Chief

Division of Wildlife • 2045 Morse Rd • Columbus, OH 43229 • wildlife.ohiodnr.gov



**Department of
Transportation**
transportation.ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D., Director

February 21, 2024

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

Subject: Metroparks Toledo's Glass City Riverwalk RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Ohio Department of Transportation is pleased to support Metroparks Toledo's Glass City Riverwalk application for the FY24 RAISE Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Metroparks Toledo will be the direct recipient of a RAISE grant award. I respectfully request consideration of this beneficial project for the citizens of Ohio.

Respectfully,

Jack Marchbanks, Ph.D.
Director



February 9, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Ostrich Towne located at Lower Town development in the Vistula District in Toledo, I request your support of Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which will transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Ostrich Towne is Toledo's latest commercial development offering a vibrant mix of office, retail and food with spaces perfect for working, gathering and entertaining. We committed to this \$17 million redevelopment in 2019 due to a large part the vision Metroparks Toledo had in the Glass City Riverwalk.

As we near completion, this Grant will significantly support Lowertown which has many private operators also committed to the revitalization of this area of Toledo.

Please consider assisting Metroparks and the Toledo region in achieving the goal of funding this critical project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Nachtrab
Managing Member

OWENS CORNING WORLD HEADQUARTERS
ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO 43659
419.248.8000



2/5/2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today on behalf of Owens Corning and the Owens Corning foundation in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Owens Corning is a global industry leader in insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composite materials, and has been for more than 80 years. We are committed to enhancing the quality of life in communities around the world where our employees live and work. This is especially true here in our hometown of Toledo, location of our world headquarters.

We have witnessed tremendous revitalization in downtown and believe the Glass City Riverwalk is the next significant step in this ongoing effort of revitalization. To clearly demonstrate our support, the Owens Corning Foundation has committed \$1 million dollars to the development of the Riverwalk.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Rettig". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Don Rettig
Director, Community Affairs
Owens Corning
President, OC Foundation

Our Mission is to
improve your health
and well-being.

February 6, 2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

ProMedica is a nationally recognized health and well-being enterprise headquartered in downtown Toledo, immediately adjacent to the Glass City Riverwalk. We recognize the importance of safe, accessible amenities to the continued revitalization of the city, especially as the planned project connects directly into underserved neighborhoods. We are confident that our employees, visitors and residents will benefit from the plan and look forward to supporting the project.

I ask that you strongly consider funding TMACOG's request in support of this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arturo Polizzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arturo Polizzi
President & CEO



02/16/2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal for funds through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project that is transforming the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks, and natural areas.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The constituents of the 44th House district of Ohio and downtown Toledo would greatly appreciate this support.

I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the Metroparks' proposal for funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elgin Rogers Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elgin Rogers Jr.
Ohio Representative, District 44

Salem Lutheran Church

1127 N. Huron St. Toledo, Ohio 43604 // michael.hanck@gmail.com // www.salemtoledo.com

February 5, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Salem Lutheran Church, as one of the more stable and open outreaches in the Vistula neighborhood, in which 60% of people live below the poverty line, is enthusiastic about the forthcoming Riverwalk and any improvements that can be made to the transportation system that people so desperately need in this area. We have worked to connect the MetroParks and other area agencies with people on a grassroots level, and we continue to wish flourishing for their projects, our neighborhood, and *all* of the people who are in our area.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

In Gratitude,

Pr. Mike





Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8060
Gavarone@ohiosenate.gov

Committees:
Local Government - *Vice Chair*
JCARR - *Vice Chair*
Finance
General Government
Rules and Reference
Judiciary

Theresa Gavarone
Majority Whip :
2nd District

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

2/27/2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As a member of the Ohio Senate proudly representing Lucas County in Ohio's 2nd senate district, I am pleased to express my support of Metroparks Toledo for their proposal for funds through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program

These funds would be used to further construct the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. The trail will provide access to riverfront amenities including dining and entertainment, boat docks, parks and natural areas.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Accessible recreational structures are vital for the health and social wellbeing of all residents, and the Glass City Riverwalk functions as a significant regional attraction for residents and visitors. I am grateful for the innovative ways in which Metroparks Toledo works to enhance Lucas County and serve its community. I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa Gavarone".

Senator Theresa Gavarone
Majority Whip
Ohio's 2nd Senate District



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Toledo, Ohio 43604

P.O. Box 9508 Toledo, OH 43697-9508

Phone 419.241.9155 Fax 419.241.9116 www.tmacog.org

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), I request your support of Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

TMACOG is a non-partisan metropolitan planning partnership made up of voluntary members in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Together, TMACOG members focus on transportation and water quality, and support regional economic development endeavors that affect quality of life for everyone in our region. Founded in 1968, TMACOG has an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation which designates TMACOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Toledo urbanized area. TMACOG has been a strong supporter of the efforts made thus far by Metroparks Toledo, funding several projects that will enhance the Glass City Riverwalk. Additionally, the Riverwalk project is ranked #19 out of 153 projects on TMACOG's 2045 – Update 2020 Transportation Plan.

Please consider assisting Metroparks and the Toledo region in achieving the goal of funding this critical project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Gedeon, AICP
Director of Transportation, TMACOG



February 14, 2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It is my pleasure to submit this Letter of Support for Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Downtown Toledo is undergoing a renaissance and investment in a robust, intermodal transportation system is key to its success. TARTA provides fixed route, paratransit, micro-transit and vanpool services in the community and we are also about to embark on an agency-wide transformation. Community grants such as RAISE will allow stakeholders to exponentially leverage federal, state and local funding devoted to public transportation and ensure our planning processes are conducted in collaboration with one another.

The Glass City Riverwalk is an opportunity for us to think creatively about multimodal connections between bus, bike, pedestrian, rail and other modes. This community is well poised with visionary leaders committed to its success and evolution as a high demand destination location. Thank you for your consideration of this request to award RAISE Grant funding to Metroparks that will advance this important project in Downtown Toledo.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Koprowski", is written over the typed name.

Laura Koprowski
Chief Executive Officer
lkoprowski@tarta.com

1127 West Central Avenue, P.O. Box 792
Toledo, Ohio 43697-0792
P: 419.243.7433 | F: 419.243.8588



February 13, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of
Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the over 2,000 members of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Chamber has led the region's effort in attracting and retaining a talented workforce. We know that spaces like the proposed Glass City Riverwalk are important to helping our region's economy grow and attracting the workforce our businesses need to be successful. This project will continue the momentum that our downtown has achieved in recent years.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Dicken, IOM
Vice President, Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives



Toledo Design Collective
URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Monday, February 19, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

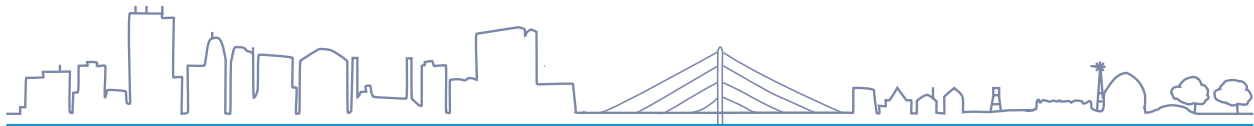
Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The Toledo Design Collective is inspiring transformative growth through urban planning and thoughtful design. As a non-profit organization, our full-time staff, supported by our active volunteer board, is dedicated to improving the function and aesthetic of the Toledo region. Central to our mission is inclusive engagement that centers resident voices in development, with a focus on many of Toledo's most historically disinvested neighborhoods and communities. Our organization has found few better partners in this mission than Metroparks Toledo. Together, we have worked alongside community members to connect access to the Maumee Riverfront in East Toledo's Garfield neighborhood and North Toledo's Vistula neighborhood. Through these projects, Metroparks Toledo has gone beyond building beautiful natural spaces, they have modeled how local agencies do better through thoughtful commitment to equity, engagement, and design.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan A. Bunch
Studio Director



TOLEDO - LUCAS COUNTY PLAN COMMISSIONS

One Government Center, Suite 1620, Toledo, OH 43604 P: 419 245-1200 F: 419 936-3730

February 5, 2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConneCToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

The mission of the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions is to create a community with a high quality of life and access to economic opportunity for all of our residents through, research, planning services, policy development and the promotion and facilitation of activities that lead to collaboration and cooperation among our constituent jurisdictions.

The Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions has partnered with the Connect Toledo and other community organizations to promote the redevelopment of downtown and provide opportunities to support quality of life projects. The Metroparks is valuable resource and vital partner to the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions. Metroparks' plan to offer recreational amenities (walking/bicycling paths) is completely in line with the vision and goals outlined in the *Toledo 20/20 Comprehensive Plan*, which also encourages the development and use of green infrastructure. In this case, the base for the green infrastructure already exists, it just needs to be implemented.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas C. Gibbons". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'T' and 'G'.

Thomas C. Gibbons
Director

CITY OF TOLEDO



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS

February 8, 2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide, multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees and visitors.

Metroparks Toledo has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Troendle".

Michael C. Troendle
Chief of Police



Michael C. Troendle, Chief of Police
525 N. Erie Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604 U.S.A. Phone 419-245-3200 FAX: 419-936-3706
www.toledopolice.com

— A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency —



2/5/24

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE,
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

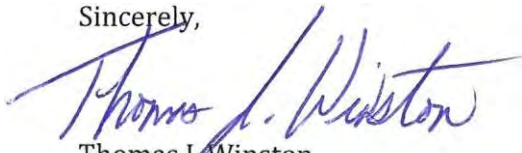
Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

As a leading agency in stimulating economic development and managing the transportation assets in the region, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority believes this project has multiple benefits that will help to move our community forward.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Winston
President & CEO



February 9, 2024

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to advance further the Glass City Riverwalk. This project would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. A vital project component is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail, ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. The project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and contribute to downtown Toledo's ongoing revitalization.

Founded in 1838, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) was Ohio's first free public library. The library—a recent recipient of the National Medal Award for Library Services—serves residents throughout Lucas County and the surrounding region, with over 280,000 cardholders. Like the Metroparks, TLCPL's expansive physical footprint throughout the county means residents are never far from a local branch. Still, our flagship Main Library and the surrounding central city branches are integral parts of the downtown Toledo development renaissance, and we look forward to this project. Just like the public library is an ongoing investment in our community's future, so too is the downtown Glass City Riverwalk, which will benefit our community today and for decades to come.

Please consider assisting Metroparks in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Kucsma', written over a white background.

Jason Kucsma
Executive Director/Fiscal Officer



2.5.24

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

TolHouse is a social club designed to organize Toledo's doers; the people helping our region reach its fullest potential. Our Members are from a variety of industry categories, artistic communities, and more. Our club resides in the Historic Vistula district, Toledo's oldest neighborhood, and our selection of this location speaks to not only our commitment to investing in our rich local history, but also building towards the future. This great future isn't possible without other tremendous community assets like the MetroParks Glass City Riverwalk project, which we believe will be transformational and catalytic - as its already proving to be for our city.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Lucas", written over a horizontal line.

Will Lucas, CEO
TolHouse

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Fax: (419) 255-9623
<http://kaptur.house.gov>



MARCY KAPTUR
9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER

Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on Defense

Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to express strong support for the proposal from Metroparks Toledo for the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity discretionary grants program. This proposal is necessary for the completion of the Glass City Riverwalk, an investment that is already paying dividends for Northern Ohio in the form of economic growth, access to recreation, and healthy green space on our precious waterfront.

Metroparks Toledo, in collaboration with wide array of local partners, has transformed our riverfront into a significant regional attraction. The recently opened Glass City Metropark and the ongoing construction of the Glass City Riverwalk are a testament to forward momentum, and a crucial investment in walkability and access to transit-friendly recreation. The proposal will see the creation of five miles of multi-use path on both sides of the Maumee River, connecting adjacent neighborhoods, businesses, hotels, and restaurants to a world-class amenity.

Metroparks' partners include the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, and the University of Toledo, each of whom are to be commended for their energy in pushing our region forward. I urge the application's favorable review consistent with your agency's rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

MARCY KAPTUR
U.S. Representative





February 5, 2024

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave.
SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I write to you today in support of the application from the Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors.

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

For more than 100 years, United Way has fundraised for and invested in the Greater Toledo community. With more than 20,000 donors, 10,000 local volunteers, and over \$9 million dollars raised annually, we continue to bring incredible people together to make positive community change.

I ask that you consider assisting Metroparks Toledo in achieving the goal of funding this important project. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Pestrue, JD
CEO, United Way of Greater Toledo

UNITED WAY OF GREATER TOLEDO
1001 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 100, TOLEDO, OH 43604

February 16, 2024

United States Department of Transportation 1200
New Jersey Ave, SE,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to you in support of the application from Metroparks Toledo for their proposal through the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants Program.

Metroparks Toledo seeks funding to further advance the Glass City Riverwalk, a project which would transform the downtown Toledo riverfront into a significant regional attraction by providing a safe, wide multi-use trail on both sides of the Maumee River connected at each end with safe pathways over existing bridges. An important component of the project is providing direct connections from the trail to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks and trail systems. Parking lots and transit stops will be located near the trail ensuring accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors

Metroparks has partnered with the City of Toledo, ConnecToledo, Destination Toledo, Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Governments, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and the University of Toledo. When complete, the project will provide safe and reliable transportation options for accessing riverfront destinations and will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

Metroparks has our support for its proposal for funding of the Glass City Riverwalk project. Please let me know if you have questions relating to our interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Sujata Shetty, Ph.D.
Director, Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center
Professor, Department of Geography and Planning
University of Toledo