

# Letters of Support

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2/14/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington, Kentucky Central Riverfront Development RAISE Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from AFSCME AFL-CIO Local 237 for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Central Riverfront development project RAISE Grant application.

AFSCME AFL-CIO Local 237 has represented Covington, Kentucky's non-uniformed City staff for over 50 years. We proudly represent and work together with the City to maintain City streets, emergency vehicles, properties and our beautiful parks.

We truly hope you will consider Covington, Kentucky for this site development grant for so many reasons but here are a few that are incredibly important to the area and AFSCME Local 237.

- Provide good paying Union construction jobs for this project, as well as the Brent Spence Bridge companion bridge project
- AFSCME Union members will be providing the maintenance, repair and preventative maintenance for the public infrastructure
- Increased opportunities for job training through the Enzweiler Institutes' Building Trades School in Latonia, Kentucky

We would be more than happy to share any additional details about our extreme support for this project. Please reach out to: Mark Ranson, [mranson@covingtonky.gov](mailto:mranson@covingtonky.gov) or 859-292-2292

The size and location of this property and the conceptual drawings should leave no doubt of it's importance to us and the area. This will be a core part of this City's identity for generations to come and we are hopeful you will support us in shaping that with this grant.

Respectfully,

Mark Ranson  
President  
AFSCME AFL-CIO Local 237





February 9, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application**

Please accept this letter of support from altafiber for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

altafiber is a regional internet service provider and technology solutions company with business and residential service in Northern Kentucky. altafiber has been providing services to the city of Covington for over 100 years. In 2020, altafiber entered a partnership with the City of Covington and Covington Independent Public Schools to address the digital divide through public Wi-Fi and fiber expansion to underserved neighborhoods. The initiative, Covington Connect, has been a demonstrated success with 58,240 Wi-Fi registrations and 1.42 million Wi-Fi sessions since January of 2021.

altafiber enthusiastically supports the development of the Covington Central Riverfront Development and intends to continue our partnership with the City of Covington through fiber infrastructure investment, ensuring the site is equipped with high-speed and state of the art technology options. This infrastructure will lay the groundwork for expansion of Covington Connect, ensuring that residents have sufficient access to Wi-Fi throughout all of Covington's neighborhoods. altafiber is committed to addressing digital equity within our service area through public-private partnerships.

Additionally, altafiber will work with City of Covington to integrate smart city technology for transportation planning including measuring impacts on vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian volume in and around the site. The traffic data will provide valuable insights for the City of Covington as they embark on the redevelopment of the Brent Spence Bridge.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Dan Mazza, Sr. Director of Sales, (513) 235-1256.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Mazza'.

Dan Mazza  
altafiber, Sr. Director of Sales



February 17, 2023

Angela Mazzi, FAIA  
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Champlin Architecture  
Past President

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former  
IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support from the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Cincinnati) for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development project.

AIA Cincinnati represents nearly 500 architects working in nine southwestern Ohio counties, directly across the Ohio River from Northern Kentucky. With many of our members living or working in Northern Kentucky, we are actively invested in advocating for development that improves quality of life in our region.

This once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a dense, mixed-use development will have a significant impact on the tristate. Just as the Brent Spence Bridge project is a regional effort, the CCR will provide opportunities for design professionals on both sides of the river.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please reach out to our executive director, Julie Carpenter at [julie@aiacincinnati.org](mailto:julie@aiacincinnati.org) or 513-421-4661 if needed.

The size and location of this property, and the vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, will shape Covington's future, and provide a positive benefit to Cincinnati. We encourage your support of this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela Mazzi".

Angela Mazzi, FAIA, FACHA, EDAC  
President, AIA Cincinnati

Julie Carpenter  
Executive Director

1308 Race St Ste 104  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
T 513.421.4661  
M 513.609.2757  
[info@aiacincinnati.org](mailto:info@aiacincinnati.org)



RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront  
Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

01.31.23

Please accept this letter of support from Aviatra Accelerators for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Aviatra Accelerators has been part of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Covington for many years and is a recipient of financial support from the City. We highly value this partnership and are thrilled to be part of the ongoing renaissance of the downtown.

The development of the Central Riverfront is adjacent to our neighborhood and will enhance the vibrant combination of residential and commercial properties here. Our accelerator supports women entrepreneurs and the increased foot traffic created in the redeveloped area will greatly benefit the many woman-owned businesses nearby.

Sincerely,

Jill Morenz  
President/CEO  
Aviatra Accelerators

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Aviatra Accelerators  
114 W. Pike Street  
Covington, KY 41011







1/31/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

1100 Pike St. Covington, KY 41011  
Main 859.291.1340  
Fax 859.291.9770  
Web [beconcerned.org](http://beconcerned.org)

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Paul Gottbrath

**Biz. Development Director**

Dave Laake

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from Be Concerned, Inc. for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Be Concerned, Inc. is Covington's oldest and largest free food pantry. We are a 501c(3) nonprofit charity serving more than 1,500 families each month. About 1,000 of those families are Covington residents. The City of Covington has been a supporter and partner of our agency, and the families that turn to us for help, since we started as a Christmas program in 1968. Most recently we have worked with the City of Covington as a lynchpin partner for urban development of the Duveneck Square revitalization project in 2015, the search and securing of our new home to make way for that project in 2016, a partnership during the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed us to purchase and distribute PPE to all Covington residents in need in 2020, and an ARPA-R Grant partnership in 2022 to expand our English as Second Language evening to 2 evenings to grow capacity for the growing number of LatinX families in the City. When we have reached out to the City for help, they have always responded. We know we can count on the City as our local government partner, as well as its employees as community-minded supporters and advocates.

We support the development of the Covington Central Riverfront and believe that this opportunity to connect our city back to the river will have a positive impact on those who live, visit, and work in our urban core, and its surrounding cities. Including the thousands of families and individuals who come to our pantry for help, and the hundreds of volunteers who come here to serve them.


This project offers the opportunity to connect the biking and walkways along the river, which would add connectivity to current routes that are disjointed and force users off the river, or seeking other areas to do their biking and walking.

The project itself also allows for short-term construction jobs during its development, and long-term job opportunities after the project is complete. It also allows for future workforce development programming in our region. More jobs, and more development of our local workforce, is always a good thing.

The Covington Central Riverfront development project will also complement the regional transportation plans in our area, which is a benefit to anyone traveling to and through the City of Covington, especially as the Brent Spence Bridge will soon undergo changes to its current construction and egress into and out of the City.

The size and location of this property, and the vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Andrew Brunzman at [andrew.brunzman@beconcerned.org](mailto:andrew.brunzman@beconcerned.org).

Thank you,

  
Andrew Brunzman  
Executive Director



112 W Pike St  
Covington KY 41011  
hey@bluenorthky.com

January 25, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from Blue North for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Blue North is the Kentucky Innovation Hub for the 11 counties of Northern Kentucky, which includes the City of Covington in Kenton County. As a KY Innovation Hub, our role is to unite universities, established companies and industry sectors, entrepreneurs, business accelerator and incubator programs and many other public and private entities to best serve business founders across Northern Kentucky. Covington is the heartbeat of our entrepreneurial and creative communities in NKY and the home of many of the startups and small businesses that we support in our work.

There are a few elements that make this project so important to us:

- 1.) *Safety*: Our region heavily focuses on women entrepreneurs. When we ask them why they choose NKY versus other parts of our region, safety is at the top of their list
- 2.) *Economic Competitiveness and Opportunity*: Our entrepreneurs are tired of being told they can't build their business in a "flyover state" or that they need to leave their home in order to raise capital. This project will show why we are all betting on Northern Kentucky.
- 3.) *Innovation*: Every company that we support is based on innovation – whether that is venture like Bexion Pharmaceuticals aiming to cure cancer or a startup like Better Blend that is making a tastier and better for you protein shake. Innovators want to be surrounded by other innovators and this project will be a beacon for the innovation in the Midwest.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Dave Knox, Executive Director of Blue North at [dave@bluenorthky.com](mailto:dave@bluenorthky.com) or 513-658-0868.

To use the words of their own Economic Development Manifesto, Covington is "the bold side of the river, where timelessness meets the ventures of tomorrow." The vision the city has laid for this property is a once in a generation opportunity and I appreciate any support you can lend.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Knox", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dave Knox  
Blue North, Executive Director



February 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
12300 New jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please except this correspondence as a letter of support and endorsement for the City of Covington, Kentucky's \$25 million RAISE grant application from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The city has been working diligently in recent years to re-develop the former site of a regional Internal Revenue Service facility located within the heart of the city. The city is now applying for the maximum \$25 million grant from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program, that would leverage \$80 million in public infrastructure improvements. The City of Covington is the largest city in Northern Kentucky directly across the river from downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. This grant would greatly accelerate the redevelopment of this site and continue the revitalization efforts in the city's urban core.

This is a very important project for our region, and I trust that the U.S. Department of Transportation will give this application every consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully

  
Gary W. Moore  
Boone County Judge/Executive



BRENT SPENCE BRIDGE PROJECT  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
City of Covington, Kentucky

February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (CCR) Grant Application

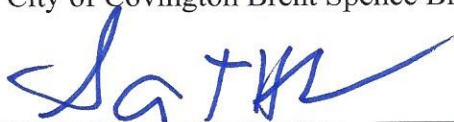
We the undersigned are appointed members of the City's Coordinating Committee for the City of Covington portions of the forthcoming Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project. Please accept this letter of support from our Committee for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

The Covington Central Riverfront Development is a critical link in making best use of public investment in the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project. Our Committee is actively examining ways to help make this happen with guidance for the corridor project designers and builders. We report to the Mayor and his staff, and the importance of effective connection and access to the Covington Central Riverfront Development has been made clear. In partnership, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has committed to key arterial roadway improvements to better serve and connect the Covington Central Riverfront Development site with one of the most important interstate commerce corridors in the United States.

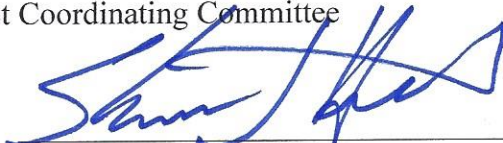
All transportation serves a higher purpose of Quality of Life and economic Return-on-Investment. The Covington Central Riverfront Development put forward by the City for RAISE Grant consideration is a shining example of those higher purposes, and will certainly reinforce best outcomes related to the major Brent Spence project that the President pointed to in his visit here just last month.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project and the efforts we are making. Please reach out to any of us below if we may be of service.

Thank you,  
The City of Covington Brent Spence Bridge Project Coordinating Committee



Sarah Allan, Member  
[sarah.allan@covingtonky.gov](mailto:sarah.allan@covingtonky.gov)



Steve Hill, Member  
[joseph.woodwerks@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.woodwerks@gmail.com)



Ben Oldiges, Member  
[ben.oldiges@covingtonky.gov](mailto:ben.oldiges@covingtonky.gov)



Emily Wolff, Member  
[epalmerwolff@yahoo.com](mailto:epalmerwolff@yahoo.com)



February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This letter is intended to support Covington, Kentucky's Central Riverfront Development Project. I am the Judge Executive (county executive) in Campbell County, a Kentucky county home to Newport, immediately adjacent to Covington on its east side. The health, vitality and success of Covington has a profound effect on my constituents. We are not only neighbors, but our economies are built to compliment each other in a cooperation that benefits us both.

In my county, Newport has a billion dollar project called Ovation that has constructed several hundred million dollars of infrastructure and buildings to date. We expect the development at the former IRS site in Covington to not only be a tremendous asset to our entire region, but also to add dramatically to the momentum both Newport and Covington have achieved in recent years. With the transportation obstacle that the recently approved Brent Spence Bridge project removed, pent up demand in our area and particularly in these two inner cities, is freed to become reality. Our community is taking full advantage of the opportunity the bridge investment represents.

The Covington Central Riverfront Project is a giant step in the right direction, for all of us. We would be happy to share further details about our support for the Covington effort and how our ambitions dovetail with it. We believe that in finding ways to be helpful with this project, you are helping to shape our regional future.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steve Pendery'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Steve Pendery  
Campbell County Judge Executive





2/20/23

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Catalytic Development Funding Corp. of Northern Kentucky enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Our company executes high impact real estate development projects in Northern Kentucky's River Cities by connecting people, place, and product with capital and technical expertise. Our privately funded, not-for-profit company is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified by the U.S. Department of Treasury. As a CDFI, we bring non-traditional growth capital to communities in need of thoughtful investment in underutilized sites and buildings to fight job losses, decrease poverty, and increase community resiliency. To date, we have made dozens of investments throughout the City of Covington to set the stage for the redevelopment of larger projects, like the CCR.

Through our previous partnerships with the City of Covington, we have increased the downtown population, increased the numbers of jobs across all sectors, and significantly reduced the number of vacant buildings. However, the significant loss of jobs due to the shuttered IRS facility at this site created both a huge liability and huge opportunity for our organization to assist the City in developing an entirely new neighborhood in Covington. The CCR project presents an opportunity to attract new businesses to Covington, create new high-quality housing, increase the quality of life in census tracts severely impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic, and provide a significant number of new jobs. Our mission aligns perfectly with the City's vision and plan for this site and we look forward doing our part to execute this project and continue the tremendous successes Covington has had combatting poverty, job losses, and disinvestment in recent years.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Joe Klare, Chief Operating Officer, via email at [jklare@thecatalyticfund.org](mailto:jklare@thecatalyticfund.org).

The size, location, and vision for this property, as laid out in the conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, the CCR project will be a core part of both Covington's and the larger region's identity. We appreciate your support of this project.

Thank you,

Joe Klare  
Chief Operating Officer



February 17, 2023

Greetings from Children's Home of Northern Kentucky/CHNK Behavioral Health!

As Chief Executive Officer, I am writing in support of RAISE funding for the City of Covington's Central Riverfront development project. This project will have multiple positive effects for our city and our region including improving the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Presently, our entire nation continues to grapple with a mental health crisis never before experienced in recent memory. The Commonwealth of Kentucky, especially, has experienced the negative effects of citizens unable to access mental health services when and where they are needed. In the past fiscal year, CHNK Behavioral Health has provided over 9,500 nights of residential care in our two residential campuses for youth. Additionally, nearly 12,000 unique treatment services have been offered to individuals in mental health outpatient division. Collectively, over 3,000 individuals were served by CHNK in FYE June 30, 2022. The City of Covington provided a \$500,000 ARPA grant to CHNK last year to fund emergency capital repairs. These funds ensured that we could continue to serve children and families for years to come.

I share this information to highlight the importance of the Covington Central Riverfront development project with its very focused attention to green space, community gathering areas, and dedicated areas specifically designed to maximize social interaction. Following a two-year pandemic, these planned features will have a tremendously important impact on youth and families not only in the urban core, but those visiting the region to access healthcare from outlying areas of the Commonwealth. Most national medical and mental health associations have publicly declared a mental health emergency—especially in regards to youth and lower socio-economic status individuals. CHNK proudly focuses specifically on these populations with over 90% of our clients utilizing some form of Medicaid payment. Many of these families are served in CHNK's outpatient facility which will be only a short walk from the Covington Central Riverfront development project. Access to this kind of innovate development that combines the best of the natural world with social interaction will be key in responding to our clients and families in care.

Please know that I am happy to answer any additional question you may have related to this important project.

Sincerely,

Rick Wurth  
Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 859.261.8768 • Fax: 859.261.2431

Devou Park Campus • 200 Home Road, Devou Park • Covington, KY 41011

Burlington Campus • 4836 Idlewild Road • Burlington, KY 41005

Deaconess Health Check • 525 W. Fifth Street, Suite 219 • Covington, KY 41011

[www.chnk.org](http://www.chnk.org)



For referrals, please call 1.844.YES.CHNK





February 7, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Cincinnati Bengals enthusiastically support the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

For the past twenty years, the communities in our region on both sides of the Ohio River have invested hundreds of millions of dollars and worked to rebuild and revitalize the riverfront as a showpiece for the area and for the region. Covington has been an energetic leader in redeveloping the riverfront in this community, and redeveloping the former IRS site would fit “hand in glove” with that broader effort. The plans would take advantage of the investments that are already in place & would amplify both the local and the federal dollars flowing into the project.

The timing of this project could not be more perfect, as local communities have been investing in sports venues, music and entertainment spaces, and related urban projects over the past two decades. Those efforts – combined with the forthcoming Brent Spence Bridge project – would showcase a rare alignment of multi-state (Kentucky and Ohio) with multi-community (Covington, Cincinnati, Newport) with federal investments to help propel this region of the country into the future. This type of “combined opportunity & partnership” is rare to occur, and the Cincinnati Bengals strongly support the City of Covington’s request as a responsible, dynamic, and forward looking project. The size and location of this property, combined with the vision laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance to not only Covington – but to the broader region. Covington and Kentucky are entities moving forward ambitiously. Generations from now people will look back on this project as a core part of Covington’s identity and will likewise look back on the decision to invest this way as both wise and prescient. The leadership of the stakeholders at the City of Covington in furthering this project along will generate good will for years to come – it cannot be overstated.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me at 513-621-3550.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine B. Blackburn

Owner

Cincinnati Bengals, Inc.



Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council  
1550 Chase Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45223  
Phone: 513.541.0328  
Fax: 513.541.2133  
executive.secretary@gcbctc.com

February 2, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for the Covington Central Riverfront Development Grant Application (Former IRS Site)

Dear Sir,

We strongly believe that the development of this property will not only help the community, but boost the economy as well. This development will give opportunities to the citizens of Covington, and the surrounding area, the chance to earn a fair living wage. With the opportunity of an apprenticeship, they will learn a skill that will enhance them and their families whole life. With the help of Mayor Joe Meyer and the Department of Transportation, I am sure that prevailing wage will be in effect for this project and that the local unions will play a large part in its successful completion.

This project, along with the Brent Spence Bridge project, will ensure 10 – 15 years' worth of work in this area alone and will spur more expansion in the Tri-state area. The size and location of the project along with the vision for its layout leave no doubt of its importance. Mayor Joe Meyer has been a supporter of the working families of Covington and this project is another example of his support. This project will not only help this community but it will be a core part of the identity of the city of Covington, KY for the years to come.

We strongly support this project and want a hand in changing the future of Covington for the better.

In Solidarity,

James A. Hyden

Executive Secretary

Greater Cincinnati Building & Construction Trades Council

Mark Hamant  
President

James A. Hyden  
Executive Secretary

2/3/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC) for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

3CDC is a non-profit, real estate development and finance organization focused on strategically revitalizing Cincinnati's urban core in partnership with the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati corporate community. The organization's work is specifically focused on the Central Business District and in Over-the-Rhine, where 3CDC has completed \$1.7 billion in redevelopment projects over the past 19 years.

Based on this experience, 3CDC has seen first-hand how a significant investment and development project like this can entirely change a community. This project has the potential to be catalytic for the entire region, providing an additional connection between Northern Kentucky and the region's major employment center in Downtown Cincinnati.

As 3CDC continues its development work in Cincinnati's urban core, it is essential that our region be connected. This project has the potential to improve access to jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, schools, places of worship, areas of recreation, and parks. The strengthening of the economy in Northern Kentucky makes our entire region stronger, and the additional jobs that will be created, along with new residents and visitors that will eventually be attracted to this mixed-use development will help support the work we're actively carrying out across the Ohio River.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please contact Joe Rudemiller ([jrudemiller@3CDC.org](mailto:jrudemiller@3CDC.org)) for additional information, if needed.

The size and location of this property, and Covington's vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity, and will indeed strengthen our region.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Leeper  
President & CEO



# CINCINNATI REDS™

Great American Ball Park, 100 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202-4109, Phone: 513.765.7000, Fax: 513.765.7342, [www.reds.com](http://www.reds.com)

February 13, 2023

**Via Email** [[RAISEgrants@dot.gov](mailto:RAISEgrants@dot.gov)]

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Kentucky and their Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site)  
Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

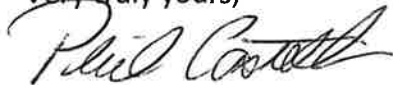
Please accept this letter of support from the Cincinnati Reds for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Central Riverfront development project, which is the site of the previous Internal Revenue Service processing complex.

Great American Ballpark, the home of the Reds, sits directly across the Ohio River from Covington. The City of Covington, along with the entire Northern Kentucky region is a major fan base for the organization. Developing the IRS site, which actually can be seen from Great American Ballpark, will be an investment in the future of all of Northern Kentucky, by making the area even more appealing for residential and commercial use. In turn, providing opportunities for businesses, such as the Reds, to attract new patrons to the services and events that they provide.

Currently, the site is vacant. It is a prime area for development, located just west of Covington's convention and hotel sector and is a block from the riverfront. Developing the site to include residential and commercial opportunities will further advance Covington, the riverfront, and the entire region. There is a renewed interest in urban living throughout the region, so it is a perfect time to develop the site in such a manner as to bring people back into Covington's core.

The size and location of this property, and Covington's vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Very truly yours,



Phillip J. Castellini  
President and Chief Operating Officer



**WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS: 1919, 1940, 1975, 1976, 1990 NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: 1919, 1939, 1940, 1961, 1970, 1972, 1975, 1976, 1990**



February 1, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project RAISE grant application submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

On behalf of our thousands of members across the Cincinnati regions on both sides of the Ohio river, the Chamber developed The Connected Region, a vision for the future of mobility and urban development in our region. As part of that plan, we are committed to advocating for projects that connect more people to jobs, education, health care and all that our region has to offer. Covington's plans to redevelop the former IRS site fit squarely into that vision.

Developing walkable, urban communities in the heart of our region will be catalytic to driving business growth and economic vibrancy in Covington and beyond. The Chamber is committed to advocating for projects and policies like this one that help create more connected communities.

With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), our region finally has the opportunity to seek federal funding for a myriad of projects that meaningfully improve our community's built environment. The recent announcement of funds for the Brent Spence Bridge corridor, which sits just to the west of this development site, is an example of how we can connect local, state, and federal dollars to transform our community.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Covington's application. We appreciate you giving it due consideration and believe that you will find it worthy of awarding funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill P. Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill P. Meyer  
CEO



# CITY OF BELLEVUE

## Office of the Mayor

616 Poplar Street  
Bellevue, Kentucky 41073  
Phone: (859)292-4223  
Fax: (859)261-8387

February 16, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Sec. Buttigieg:

We am writing to express the City of Bellevue's support for the City of Covington, Kentucky's, Covington Central Riverfront development project.

The City of Bellevue, Covington and other Northern Kentucky river cities are members of Southbank Partners, a regional economic development organization, and we work together to support regional projects that benefit the greater good of Northern Kentucky.

The Covington Central Riverfront Development Project is a transformational development undertaking for Covington and all of Northern Kentucky. It is an important mixed use development that will provide housing, jobs, retail and commercial space.

The development is in Covington, but it will have a synergistic impact to Covington, Bellevue and all of Northern Kentucky.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Bellevue City Administrator Frank Warnock at [frank.warnock@bellevueky.org](mailto:frank.warnock@bellevueky.org).

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Cleves'.

Charlie Cleves  
Mayor, Bellevue, Kentucky

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Warnock'.

Frank Warnock  
City Administrator





## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF COVINGTON

Joseph U. Meyer  
Mayor

Covington City Hall  
jumeyer@covingtonky.gov

February 27, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Covington Central Riverfront Development – RAISE Grant Letter of Introduction

Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept the City of Covington's application to the 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. We are requesting \$25 million to leverage more than \$25 million in local, non-federal funds to construct Phase II public infrastructure to create a Covington Central Riverfront mixed-use, multi-modal Hub on a 23-acres of prime Ohio Riverfront near major highway bridges (including the Brent Spence Bridge), metropolitan business districts, airports and tourism draws.

This site housed an Internal Revenue Service data-processing facility for over 50 years. To attract the facility in the 1960s the City purchased 161 parcels, demolished all structures on those properties, and sold the vacant site to the federal government for \$1. At its peak, the facility employed almost 4,500 workers and was Covington's largest employer. When the IRS shuttered the complex in 2019, Covington lost 1,800 jobs and more than \$1.5 million a year in tax revenue. Qualifying as an area of persistent poverty and a historically disadvantaged community, the neighborhoods surrounding the abandoned IRS Site needs to be reconnected to the regional transportation fabric, as well as the many opportunities this new mixed-use development will provide.

In 2020, the City bought the site for \$20.5 million and worked with an architecture and design firm to engage the community to determine the best uses of the riverfront property and create a conceptual master plan.

The land use plan: [https://www.covingtonky.gov/Portals/covingtonky/8115\\_00-CCR---Option-5-Development-Summary\\_Media-Kit---White-Bar.jpg](https://www.covingtonky.gov/Portals/covingtonky/8115_00-CCR---Option-5-Development-Summary_Media-Kit---White-Bar.jpg)

The US EDA provided a \$1.7 million planning grant for the engineering and design work.

A virtual “fly-through” video that takes the viewer “into” the developed site and can be experienced here: <https://youtu.be/8tUmxT3uMFo>.

While the visuals are inspiring, it will take patience and money to see it come to fruition. We are 100% committed to this path. The City has already invested \$24 million in the project, including purchase price, environmental and geotechnical work, demolishing the former IRS building and parking lots, abatement of hazards, and design and engineering.

We are breaking ground on Phase I of the public infrastructure in April 2024, building separated sewer mains, new public electric, gas and water lines, public greenspace, and complete streets on the southern half of the site, beginning to reconnect our neighborhoods by providing the infrastructure for infill mixed-use development. The project budget is \$15 million with State and City 50/50 match funding.

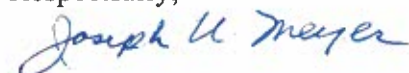
Phase II, for which we are requesting \$25 million in RAISE Grant support, will include construction of a 649 vehicle-capacity multi-modal transportation hub which is budgeted at \$36 million, as well as platformed public greenspace, and infrastructure to support an active, mixed-use community: for a total public investment of \$50 million. The Covington Motor Vehicle Parking Authority will gap finance and manage the parking function.

Connecting to surrounding neighborhoods, business districts, and the Ohio River, the Covington Central Riverfront Hub project will feature a walkable mix of residential, retail, office, recreational and public spaces that will encourage public-private development implemented in multiple phases.

The project will improve transportation safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and connectivity, and economic opportunity in the Covington urban core and surrounding region. Investment from the U.S. Department of Transportation will help make this opportunity a reality for the entire Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Area; in fact, the site has been called one of “the most exciting land redevelopment opportunities between Baltimore and New Orleans” because of its riverfront location and proximity to downtown Cincinnati and the region’s thriving CVG international airport.

The City of Covington looks forward to working with the U.S. Department of Transportation on this impactful project. For any further information, please contact Elizabeth Wetzel, Director of Special Projects & Intergovernmental Affairs, at [elizabeth.wetzel@covingtonky.gov](mailto:elizabeth.wetzel@covingtonky.gov).

Respectfully,



Joseph U. Meyer



# CITY OF LUDLOW

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51 Elm Street • P.O. Box 16188  
Ludlow, KY 41016

January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from the City of Ludlow, Kentucky for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Ludlow shares a border to the west of Covington. Covington, in many ways, serves as both a population and economic anchor for all of Northern Kentucky and their development both directly and indirectly benefits smaller communities such as ours. We are excited to be working on the Riverfront Commons project with Covington and the rest of our fellow Northern Kentucky river cities; Riverfront Commons is a shared project that is creating a continuous path from our community to neighboring communities to enhance recreational, non-automotive transportation, and entertainment opportunities.

Development of this site provides a major opportunity for further innovation, economic opportunity, and further enhancement of quality of life to our region. This site offers an opportunity to develop 26 acres of near riverfront property. Coupling this development with the continued work on Riverfront Commons will create a huge economic ripple effect among the river cities like mine. To be concise, I am thrilled at the potential for this site to be developed and what it could mean for the entire region.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Chris Wright at [cwright@ludlow.org](mailto:cwright@ludlow.org) or 859-496-0699.

Thank you,

Christopher Wright  
Mayor-Ludlow, KY



# NEWPORT

KENTUCKY

February 7, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site)  
Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg,

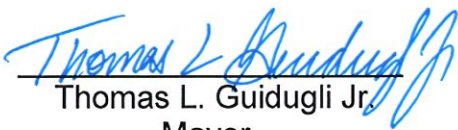
Please accept this letter of support from the City of Newport for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

The redevelopment of the former IRS site located in downtown Covington is crucial to the urban core, which also includes Newport, Kentucky. Since the two cities are adjacent, improvements in one city have a direct impact on the other. In fact, this area is less than a half mile from our city limits.

The IRS inhabited the site in Covington since the 1960's and was a major employer for the entire region. Once the center was vacated, Covington was left with empty buildings over a significant area in their downtown core. Thanks to their city leadership and the cooperation of the Federal government, they were able to acquire the property with the hope of redevelopment. Allowing the site to once again be a contributor of the economic and cultural climate of Covington and the region.

In closing, the City of Newport stands with Covington in our support for the Covington Central Riverfront Development Grant.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Thomas L. Guidugli Jr.  
Mayor

  
Thomas J. Fromme  
City Manager





January 30, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Cooper Carry enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Cooper Carry's Urban Design + Planning Studio designs and implements innovative urban design solutions. We are conveners who advocate for a quality public realm, connecting people to place and creating equitable solutions for all. Cooper Carry has worked with real estate firms, developers, public agencies, and towns to plan and design vibrant places. In 2019, we were selected to develop the Covington Central Riverfront Master plan. Working with the City and citizens of Covington, we master planned the former IRS site into a master plan for a vibrant mixed-use environment.

Cooper Carry believes by transforming the vacant site into a mixed-use environment, it will greatly improve the quality of life for residents. Also, a guiding principle of the Covington Central Riverfront Master Plan focused on promoting community connectivity. This connectivity is achieved by creating physical connections through infrastructure back into the fabric of Downtown, while also providing meaningful connections to the Ohio River. Another hallmark of our masterplan relied on implementation and ensuring economic competitiveness and opportunities through a mix of uses that translates to diversity of employment opportunities for the community.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please reach out to, Nicolía Robinson, AICP, Principal of Urban Design and Planning Studio at Cooper Carry, [nicoliarobinson@coopercarry.com](mailto:nicoliarobinson@coopercarry.com).

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,

Nicolía Robinson, AICP  
Principal  
Cooper Carry



February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg: The Covington Business Council enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky. I would hazard to guess no economic development project in the City's 200-year history rivals the impact CCR will have on the current climate as well as impacting future generations.

The Council is a membership-based business advocacy group whose mission is to advocate for a healthy business climate in Northern Kentucky's largest city—Covington. We have an active and productive relationship with City officials which has led to dramatic growth over the past decade. In the past two years alone, Covington announced more than 3,700 new jobs, approximately \$143-million in private investment and filled 422,000 square feet of office space. The Council itself has nearly 500 member companies, more than three times the amount which were members in 2010 before the City's growth escalated. We host more than 100 educational and networking events annually providing access, opportunity and growth to businesses around the entire Greater Cincinnati region.

Our governing board appreciates the diversity of scope in the development involving residential, office, shops entertainment and green space connecting to what will be a revitalized network of foot and bicycle traffic along the southern shores of the Ohio River.

From an infrastructure standpoint, reinstating the street grid around the former formidable and gated Internal Revenue Service site will create an "open-arms" approach inviting residents and guests to experience and enjoy all that Covington has to offer. The City and the Covington Business Council need your financial assistance and counsel in helping to shape the future of our City.

If you would like additional information about our support, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

Pat Frew  
Executive Director  
(859) 431-1500, extension 10  
pfrew@cbcky.com



Community Economic Development Authority  
Covington, KY

January 25, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

The Covington Economic Development Authority (CEDA) enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

CEDA is the appointed board of citizens which oversees the city's Tax Increment Finance District. I am a long-term resident of the city and the Chair of Covington-based Bexion Pharmaceuticals, an emerging biotech firm with a very promising cancer drug in clinical trials.

The Central Riverfront development area falls within our district. To date, CEDA has supported the redevelopment of this 23-acre former IRS facility by providing half of the funding to cover the cost of a nearly half-million-dollar master plan for the site. We have also provided over \$800,000 per year to cover the City's debt service on bonds issued to acquire the site and demolish the existing structures.

Aside from the obvious reasons for our organization to make such a commitment, we know that this site presents a unique opportunity in the nation to reintegrate this land back into our urban fabric in a manner that will address issues of connectivity the former use ignored and to build a sustainable mixed use neighborhood with long term economic and social benefits. Covington is a very walkable city and weaving these acres back into the street grid will only enhance that pedestrian appeal.

Covington sold the site to the federal government for a dollar in the 1960s and bought it back for \$20 million a couple of years ago, now we need your help to return it to economic and social vibrancy. If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me at [cscheper@bexionpharma.com](mailto:cscheper@bexionpharma.com).

Thank you,

  
Charles R. Scheper  
Chair





## COVINGTON INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

25 East Seventh Street • Covington, Kentucky 41011 • 859.392.1000 • 859.292.5801 TTY • 859.292.5916 fax  
Chartered 1850 • An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D

**ALVIN L. GARRISON**  
Superintendent of Schools

January 27, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support from Covington Independent Public Schools for the Central Riverfront development project in the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Covington is one of the largest independent school districts in the state of Kentucky, serving approximately 3,800 students. We are the most diverse school district in Northern Kentucky, with students from an array of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. The history of our schools and our city have been intertwined for centuries. The Covington school district traces its beginnings to 1825 when a group of residents felt that all children who wanted to get an education should be able to get one. Since that time, we have continually partnered with our friends in city government to ensure our community is a great place work, live and raise a family. Whether it is working together to expand free Wi-Fi access or engaging our youngest learners through literacy initiatives, the partnership between Covington Schools and the City of Covington is strong.

We enthusiastically support this project to further improve the quality of life in our community. The proposed plans for the Covington Central Riverfront development are innovative and will bring to life an entirely new neighborhood in our city. As we seek to become a destination school district for students, families and teachers we must have thriving neighborhoods that are vibrant, dynamic and attractive. This is a once in a generation opportunity to build a new neighborhood from scratch but also increase connectivity to several other neighborhoods in the northern part of our city. The proposed plans will give our families place to gather as a community and celebrate together; once again increasing the quality of life in our community.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please reach out to Superintendent Alvin Garrison or Board Chairman Tom Haggard if needed.



The size and location of this property, and the city's vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity and we are proud to lend our support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvin Garrison".

Alvin Garrison

Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Haggard".

Tom Haggard

Chairman of the Board of Education



Covington Motor Vehicle Parking Authority  
20 W. Pike St. Covington KY, 41011  
Covpark.com

February 27, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Hub USDOT RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Covington Motor Vehicle Parking Authority enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project as a full partner in the project with the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The Parking Authority will gap finance and manage the 649-vehicle capacity parking function within the Covington Central Riverfront Inter-modal Transportation Hub. With roughly \$80 million of capital assets and a fund balance of greater than \$2.3 million, the Parking Authority is financially strong to make this investment. With award of a 2024 USDOT RAISE Grant in the amount of \$14 million for the Inter-modal Transportation Hub component, we will invest gap financing up to \$22 million, most likely entirely through issuance of bonds, to ensure full funding of the \$36 million facility.

The Parking Authority's Executive Director has been involved with the design and engineering process of the project and is fully committed to the elements outlined, including electric vehicle charging stations and further build-out of additional EV capacity. The Parking Authority received \$1/2 million grant for EV charging via the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments. Where feasible, the parking authority will be applying for other grants like EV Charging these funds will be applied to the CCR project where applicable.

Covington Central Riverfront Hub public investments will have transformational transportation impact and an exponential fiscal boon for the City of Covington, Northern Kentucky, and the Greater Cincinnati Metro region. We could not be more excited about this project and the trajectory for the community.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me at [naashom.marx@gmail.com](mailto:naashom.marx@gmail.com) or 859-912-4219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Naashom Marx', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Naashom Marx

Chair, Covington Motor Vehicle Parking Authority

Find Your Spot in COV

January 14, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Covington Neighborhood Collaborative (CNC) enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky. CNC is a non-profit umbrella organization composed of representatives from Covington's many diverse neighborhoods. We work to enrich the life of our citizens by providing a forum for sharing ideas, supporting neighborhood events and activities, offering organizational assistance to neighborhood leaders, mentoring the development of neighborhood associations, and representing the community interests of our city's residents by uniting our voices through their neighborhood associations.

A few days ago, members of CNC attended a meeting, where I was able to virtually walk through the proposed development and get a real feel of this new neighborhood. You can see the many ways the planners really listened to the current residents. This project will take the 26 acres and create a neighborhood where everyone would be happy to live, work, or play. This used to be an area of Covington that you would literally drive around, now it will be a destination. Because of the recent announcement of the Brent Spence Bridge improvements, this area will no longer be a huge building and parking lot, it will surely be a shining star on our riverfront.

If you would like additional information regarding our support, please contact  
Bill Wells  
110 Crystal Lake Dr.  
Covington Ky. 41017  
Email: bill4cov@gmail.com.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, will certainly prove to make this a destination that generations from now appreciate. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,



Bill Wells  
Chairman Covington Neighborhood Collaborative



February 24, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Covington Street Hockey League (CSHL) enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Five years ago, what started as a small group of hockey lovers playing weekly pick-up games in a city parking lot is now a six-teams strong, non-profit, 1,000 member organization focused on the growth of our City.

The League's original goal was to promote hockey, but quickly became a civic club dedicated to Covington and Northern KY. We are focused on completing clean-up projects, sponsoring special events for kids and adults and assisting with City sponsored events (shred day, household hazardous waste collection, etc). We also sell CSHL merchandise and concessions at area festivals in an effort to raise the funds needed to continue to support our league as well as give back to the community we love. We have also participated in 3 Barstool Sports (Spittin Chicklets) events throughout the country (Las Vegas, Detroit and Buffalo), which allowed us to get the City of Covington name out across the nation.

We have raised over \$90,000 since our inception and invested over \$28,000 into our new hockey rink located at Barb Cook Park. We have also invested our earnings by purchasing 40 pairs of new inline skates, gloves, helmets and sticks for anyone who wants to play hockey at our rink, partnered with the Cincinnati Cyclones to bring hockey to the neighboring youth, conducted 3 very successful Christmas toy drives for Be Concerned (Covington based People Pantry), assisted with organizing and participating in our yearly Pride weekend in Covington and Cincinnati, performed many community clean-ups throughout Covington, hosted 3 block parties per year for the Community and worked with Covington Independent Schools after school programs to add to their options of activities. The City of Covington has been – and will continue to be – our partner in providing free hockey and gear to young people and to promote our beloved community. We also have sponsorships from local breweries and businesses that have helped us reach our goals.

**1034 Russell Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
513-309-7461**

[www.covingtonstreethockeyleague.com](http://www.covingtonstreethockeyleague.com)

*THANKS FOR COMING OUT!*





The Covington Central Riverfront project is going to be a game changer for the City of Covington, and we envision utilizing the public green space, sponsoring events, and partnering with the City's Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff to serve the City's youth and promote the COV.

If you would like additional information about our support of this very important project, please contact me at 513-309-7461 or [tacri@ourkewrecking.com](mailto:tacri@ourkewrecking.com). You can also visit our webpage at [www.covingtonstreethockeyleague.com](http://www.covingtonstreethockeyleague.com).

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Acri".

Tim Acri  
Executive Director, Covington Street Hockey League

1034 Russell Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
513-309-7461  
[www.covingtonstreethockeyleague.com](http://www.covingtonstreethockeyleague.com)

*THANKS FOR COMING OUT!*



P.O. Box 752000  
Cincinnati, OH 45275-2000  
Phone: 859-767-3151  
Fax: 859-767-3080  
cvgairport.com

February 28, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Covington Central Riverfront Development Project RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to convey my support for the RAISE grant application being submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky, for its Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) Development Project.

As the largest city in Northern Kentucky, Covington's economic vitality is critically important to the region. Several years ago, one of the city's largest employers, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), vacated a 23-acre site after the federal government determined the facility was no longer needed. Covington's IRS site occupies a prime location, and the city and other partners have completed necessary environmental reviews and design for how the community envisions this site to be redeveloped.

City leaders have developed an ambitious mixed-use vision for the CCR project that I believe will meet the objectives of RAISE grant funding. Federal funds invested in public infrastructure at this site will be leveraged to create economic opportunity, particularly for communities that have struggled with economic mobility; develop a walkable layout that reduces transportation-related emissions and promotes environmental sustainability; and improves the quality of life for existing residents while focusing on sustainable and innovative infrastructure development to support new community growth.

The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) is one of the region's largest employers with more than 16,000 individuals working at the airport, including many from Covington. As North America's 7<sup>th</sup> largest cargo airport, CVG is keenly aware of existing and projected future workforce needs. As such, Covington's CCR project will also support the airport's efforts to improve quality of life, provide economic mobility for existing and new residents, and improve the region's infrastructure, complementing existing federal investment both at CVG and in the area, such as has been made in the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project.

CVG is pleased to support this project and requests your careful consideration of the merits of the City of Covington's RAISE application. Please feel free to contact me to discuss further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Candace S. McGraw', is written over a circular blue stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Candace S. McGraw  
Chief Executive Officer



**E N Z W E I L E R**  
**BUILDING INSTITUTE**

February 22, 2023

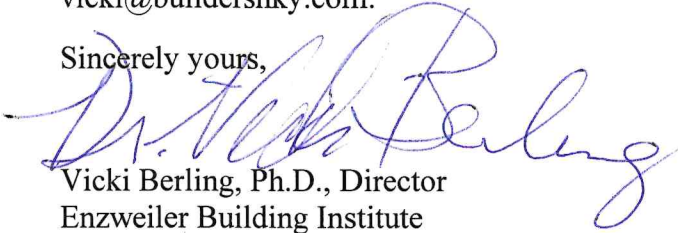
To Whom It May Concern,

The Enzweiler Building Institute is pleased to support the City of Covington, Kentucky's application for RAISE funding. In our experience, the City is an amazing partner, committed to implementing innovative programs with efficiency, creativity and expedience. We currently partner with the City on two initiatives related to the building industry:

- Enzweiler Building Institute Covington location – We recently opened a second location of the Enzweiler Building Institute in a commercial plaza in the City. Since 1967, the Enzweiler Building Institute has provided training in the skilled construction trades. We offer training in carpentry; diesel mechanics for heavy equipment; electric; facilities maintenance; heating, venting and air conditioning; plumbing; and welding. Our classes meet in the evenings, enabling our students to work in their field of choice during the day and complete their training at night. Our existing facility is located in a commercial/industrial area in a rural area with limited access to public transportation. On the other hand, the Covington location is directly on the bus line in close proximity to affordable housing and employers in the building industry. As a partner, Covington has provided guidance, financial support, introductions to other community partners, and marketing/promotional assistance.
- Covington Academy for Heritage Trades – This unique program will train workers in the so-called heritage trades to restore historic homes and buildings. A substantial portion of Covington's housing stock is historic, and the city is committed to preserving these structures to maintain the character of the City. The CAHT will work with local employers to help place students in jobs as they complete their training. The City has made available a three-story historic building as a hands-on lab site for the academy. This is another example of the type of forward thinking the City brings as a workforce partner.

In summary, the City of Covington is a great partner organization. Enzweiler Building Institute requests full funding for this project. If you have questions regarding our support, please contact me at 859.640.4294 or [vicki@buildersnky.com](mailto:vicki@buildersnky.com).

Sincerely yours,

  
Vicki Berling, Ph.D., Director  
Enzweiler Building Institute

*The Enzweiler Building Institute was established in 1967 by the Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky (DBA Building Industry Association of Northern Kentucky). It is licensed by the Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education to provide eight programs (carpentry, diesel mechanics for construction equipment, electric, facilities maintenance, HVAC, masonry, plumbing and welding) and is approved by the Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet to provide training in electric, heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC), and plumbing.*





January 31, 2023

Leo Calderón  
Chair

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Vice Chair

Jeff Richardson  
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Secretary

Adriana Cuervo-Lehman  
Member

Luis S. Paris  
Member

Billy Santos  
Member

Sr. Paula Gohs  
Member

Diana Lara  
Member

Esperanza Latino Center of NKY  
234 W Pike St.,  
Covington, KY 41011

859.261.0862  
hola@esperanzanky.org

www.esperanzanky.org

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

(% RAISEgrants@dot.gov)

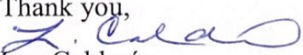
RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from Esperanza Latino Center of Northern Kentucky for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Esperanza is a non-profit social service center located in Covington that serves the Latino-Hispanic immigrant needs of Northern Kentucky. Since our establishment, we have experienced incredible growth that includes many services in partnership with the City of Covington: Read Ready, tutoring for children after school, Latino student science camps, Spanish classes for city employees, multiple Covid-19 vaccination drives, translation services, construction job placement services, and opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs, among other partnership programs. In addition, our services and referrals reached the greater Cincinnati area and include food drives, health fairs, housing, jobs, legal, medical, higher education and more.

The Covington Central Riverfront development project is critically important for Esperanza and the Latino community since it will provide job opportunities, housing, potential locations for social public gatherings at the park and plaza, and will serve as a travel destination. It is also important for the city of Covington to develop these types of economic opportunities in order to attract a diverse and vibrant population. Many of our clients are a walking distance from our center, however, others have to travel from Cincinnati, and the Brent Spence Bridge will be crucial to the transportation infrastructure.

If you would like additional information about Esperanza or of our support for this project, please contact me at [esperanzanky.leo@gmail.com](mailto:esperanzanky.leo@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
  
Leo Calderón  
President and Chair of Esperanza



c: [eglass@covingtonky.gov](mailto:eglass@covingtonky.gov)



# Horizon

COMMUNITY FUNDS

**bill butler**  
CHAIR

**chuck scheper**  
VICE CHAIR

**bob zapp**  
VICE CHAIR

**crystal faulkner**  
TREASURER

**roger peterman**  
SECRETARY

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**donna salyers**

**paul sartori**

**bob sathe**

**mike schlotman**

**chuck session**

**paul verst**

**jim votruba**

**mary zalla**

**50 E. RiverCenter Blvd.**  
**Suite 431**  
**Covington, KY 41011**  
**859.757.1552**

**[www.horizonfunds.org](http://www.horizonfunds.org)**

February 1, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support from Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Horizon Community Funds is a community foundation whose mission is to unite resources to raise the quality of life of all members of the Northern Kentucky community. Horizon Community Funds partners with local donors, nonprofit organizations, companies, and government units to increase the vibrancy of the Northern Kentucky community. Currently, the community foundation partners with the City of Covington to support its system of parks through the Covington Parks Fund, a component fund of Horizon Community Funds.

The RAISE Grant opportunity will help to further improve the vibrant and thriving culture of the City of Covington, as well as the Northern Kentucky region, through its focus on increased safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, and economic opportunity. Additionally, with the recent announcement of the Brent Spence Bridge investment, the newly established Riverfront Commons project that connects Covington with other riverfront cities, will leverage local funding provided by private philanthropy through the Riverfront Commons Fund at Horizon Community Funds.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Nancy Grayson at [ngrayson@horizonfunds.org](mailto:ngrayson@horizonfunds.org) or 859.757.1552.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. Your investment in the Covington community will pay dividends for generations to come.

Thank you,



Nancy Grayson  
President & CEO  
Horizon Community Funds of Northern Kentucky



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

## LOCAL 212

RICK FISCHER—BUSINESS MANAGER

JIM FISCHER — MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT • RICHARD HEIMBROCK — MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
TODD MICHEL — BUSINESS AGENT • CHAD DAY — BUSINESS AGENT • TRACY THORNER — BUSINESS AGENT

---

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 212 are pleased to express our support for the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 212, strives to enhance the quality of life for its members and the community at large. Whenever workers need specific assistance or employment related information, chances are IBEW Local 212 can help. Support for skill development, education, safety programs, pension investments and other important services can be easily found within our Local Union.

IBEW Local 212 represents over 2,000 hard-working men and women in Northern Kentucky and the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan area. We hold a firm resolve with our partnering contractors to provide the highest quality of skilled and expertly trained Electricians, Apprentices, and Technicians in the construction industry. Local 212 continually offers our members ongoing training, and we pride ourselves in the ability to keep our Electricians, Apprentices, and Technicians current and knowledgeable in the latest construction technologies and work processes.

The Covington Central Riverfront Development plan offers tremendous opportunities for construction related firms and construction workers in Covington and throughout Northern Kentucky. IBEW Local 212 has been a community partner for over 120 years and has a rich history of partnership and completed projects throughout Northern Kentucky and the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan areas.

IBEW Local 212 is happy to share additional details around our support of this project. You may contact our office directly with any questions or concerns. The vision set forth by the City of Covington leaves no doubt about the significance of this project to Covington, Northern Kentucky, and the surrounding regions. This property will once again become a core part of Northern Kentucky and Covington's identity, and we ask for your assistance to accomplish the objectives set forth in the Riverfront Development Plan.

Respectfully,

Richard L. Fischer  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
IBEW Local 212



# Ironworkers Union Local #44

1125 Victory Place

(859) 586-2100

Hebron, KY 41048

Fax# (859) 586-0862

International Association of Bridge Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers Union Local 44  
Steel Erectors, Fabricators and Riggers Association  
Cincinnati Ohio Ironworkers Since 1905



**Robert Barker** President

**David R. Baker** Business Manager/FS-T

**Jarrold Tiemeier** Business Agent/Organizer

February 16, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

## RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Sir,

Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project. We strongly believe this grant to help to revitalize the river community of Covington, Ky. Our members both live and work in this area each and every week. We have strong support from Mayor Joe Meyer and trust he will see to it the Union Trades are involved in this project. Many of the surrounding buildings have been constructed by our members and we would love the chance to continue to build this city.

We also feel the Department of Transportation involvement will open the door for the setting of a fair prevailing wage. These wages will serve to lift many in the region up from poverty level they currently may find themselves at. It will create an opportunity to learn a career in construction that will last a lifetime. This project along with the current expansion of the Brent Spence Bridge will ensure 10 years' worth of work in this area alone and spur growth in the entire Tri-state.

The size and location of this property plus the vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings should leave no doubt of its importance. Mayor Joe Meyer has always has been a strong supporter in working families and this project is another example of that. This will be a core part of Covington's identity for generations to come. We not only support this project but want to have a hand in shaping it.

If you wish to speak further on this project or have any questions I can assist with, feel free to reach out to me at 513-207-4930 or by email at [davebakeronline@gmail.com](mailto:davebakeronline@gmail.com).

In Solidarity

David Baker

Business Manager/FS-T

Ironworkers Local 44 – Cincinnati, OH





February 15, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project application. The city is applying for the maximum \$25 million grant from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program from the US Department of Transportation to leverage \$80 million in public infrastructure.

This project will create a public square in Covington where visitors can soak in and enjoy the city's unique character and create economic opportunity for both workers and businesses that were lost. The award of RAISE grant money will send development of this project into warp speed and help Covington, the region, and Kentucky continue to grow as a destination for tourism, economic development, and to enjoy life.

Thank you for your time and consideration of City of Covington's RAISE application for this critical project to improve safety and connectivity in northern Kentucky.

Thank you,

Kris A. Knochelmann  
Kenton County Judge/Executive



January 31, 2023

**Sent via email to RAISEgrants@dot.gov**

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Secretary Buttigieg:

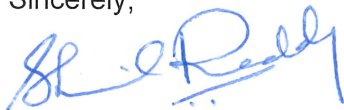
Planning and Development Services of Kenton County (PDS) enthusiastically supports the City of Covington's \$25 million grant application from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for the Covington Central Riverfront (formerly the IRS site) development project. RAISE program funds would help pay for the site's infrastructure, which is estimated to exceed \$80 million.

PDS is a city-county planning and development agency overseen by a council of 20 elected officials and directed by a seven-member management board. Our organization partners regularly with the City of Covington on development initiatives. PDS' office is located within the City of Covington, about ¾ of a mile from the Covington Central Riverfront development project site.

PDS supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project because it presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rejuvenate one of the premier sites in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region. This development will align with several long-range planning and community development goals established by PDS and the City of Covington, particularly around urban revitalization, mobility and connectivity, multi-jurisdiction regional benefit, quality of life improvement, and conformity with regional development and transportation efforts.

The Covington Central Riverfront development project is vital to the region's regional community and economic development efforts. As a supporter of the City of Covington's efforts, we request that full consideration be given to their application. We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. I can be reached at (859) 331-8980 or sreddy@pdskc.org if needed.

Sincerely,



Sharmili Reddy, AICP  
Executive Director

cc: eglass@covingtonky.gov

January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Kentucky Association for Economic Development (KAED) is excited to support the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky, located in Kenton County. Our association wholeheartedly believes this project is a worthy investment for grant funds from the US Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

KAED is the Commonwealth of Kentucky's membership association for practicing economic developers, and includes members from various sectors such as private businesses, utilities, education, local government, and state agencies that support economic development statewide.

KAED provides professional development within the field, advocacy on legislative issues impacting communities, and access to resources for economic development practitioners. We work diligently to develop programing and partner with third-party site consulting firms to advise our membership on opportunities to maximize the return on investment for their projects.

The City of Covington is an outstanding investment that continues to impact the overall success of our Commonwealth. We are proud of the momentum this region generates and are dedicated to support the City as it continues to grow.

Sincerely,



Haley McCoy  
President & CEO, Kentucky Association for Economic Development



CABINET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

Old Capitol Annex  
300 West Broadway  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

**Jeff Noel**  
Secretary

January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter of support from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development (the “Cabinet”) for the City of Covington, Kentucky’s Covington Central Riverfront development project. The loss of jobs at the project site resulting from the closure of an Internal Revenue Service operation has impacted all Northern Kentucky. To ensure the 23-acre site is returned to productive use, Covington and its partners have tirelessly worked during the last few years to redevelop the site and thus stimulate community and economic development in the area.

As the primary state agency in Kentucky encouraging job creation and business investment, the Cabinet works to attract new industries and assist existing companies to grow and expand. The availability of additional project sites for economic development projects cannot be underestimated in our efforts to ensure access to economic opportunity is a reality for all of those calling Kentucky home.

Northern Kentucky is an important economic region in the state of Kentucky. The region is home to a number of core industries including automotive manufacturing, aerospace manufacturing, financial services, medical research and healthcare, and supply chain operations among others. The Covington Central Riverfront Development project is a linchpin in the regional community and economic development efforts in Northern Kentucky and would create additional economic competitiveness and opportunity in the region.

As a supporter of this project, the Cabinet respectfully requests consideration of this application. Should you require additional information about how this project impacts the Cabinet’s economic development efforts in the region, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Noel", written over a faint blue circular stamp.

Jeff Noel  
Secretary



## EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

Mayo-Underwood Building  
500 Mero Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
502-564-3070

**Jamie Link**  
Secretary

January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Education and Labor Cabinet enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Our Cabinet supports the project for a few reasons. The CCR project is key to helping Northern Kentucky to redefine its economic competitiveness and opportunity with the loss of the IRS data processing center. The project will be an economic driver that will stimulate greater levels of investment, partnership and collaboration in the community. Further, Northern Kentucky and its economic vitality is inextricably linked to the Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which includes seven counties in Northern Kentucky. Kentuckians need to move and connect efficiently and effectively within the MSA and this project will support doing so.

The Department of Workforce Development and the Northern Kentucky Local Workforce Board are committed to developing the emerging workforce and helping upskill the existing workforce to meet the economic development needs of the region and will be partnering to support this project at every stage of development.

If you would like additional information about our support, please feel free to contact me at: [beth.brinly@ky.gov](mailto:beth.brinly@ky.gov) or 502.564.1817.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Sincerely,

*/S/ Beth A. Brinly*

Beth A. Brinly  
Deputy Secretary







COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

Capitol Building, Suite 100  
700 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
Fax: (502) 564-2517

February 2, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Covington's Central Riverfront development project. With support of this grant, the city can expedite an amazing turnaround on its riverfront and urban core following the loss of a massive IRS data processing facility just a few short years ago, which at one time had been the city's largest employer.

The City of Covington and the Northern Kentucky region just across the river from Cincinnati is a critical lynchpin in Kentucky's economy. The completion of this project, successfully restoring 23 acres of the former IRS site into a new neighborhood and mixed-use development has galvanized the community, providing the opportunity to "reshape the very identity and economics of Covington long into the future," as city officials have previously said.

The opportunity to leverage RAISE grant funding creates an incredible opportunity to create a public square in Covington where visitors can enjoy the city's unique character and create economic opportunity for both workers and visitors that were lost with the IRS closing.

The City of Covington and its stakeholders have done a tremendous job to project a vision for this project in a smart, sustainable way that will produce positive ripple effects for all of Kentucky. As Governor I request your consideration for the city's grant application. Should it be needed, this office is happy to help provide additional details or answer any follow-up questions you might have. And thank you as always for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Beshear".

Andy Beshear  
Governor

702 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-564-8100  
[Shelley.Funkefrommeyer@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:Shelley.Funkefrommeyer@lrc.ky.gov)



District 24  
Bracken, Campbell,  
Pendleton & Kenton (Part)  
Counties

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY STATE SENATE

February 7, 2023

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

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

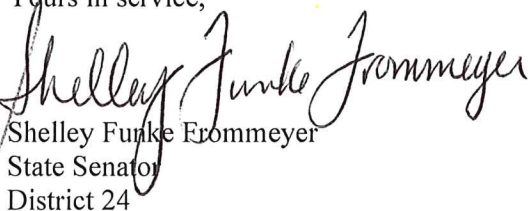
As the sixth of 12 children, we sold some of our farm-raised vegetables on the corner of Pike Street and Madison Avenue in Covington. This opportunity to seek Rebuild American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funds is exhilarating to me. Please consider this application submitted by the City of Covington for the Covington Central Riverfront development project at the former IRS site.

Funds from this grant will be used to create a public square in Covington where visitors can soak in and enjoy the city's unique character and create economic opportunity for both workers and businesses that were lost with the IRS. The award of RAISE grant money will send development of this project into warp speed and help Covington, the region, and Kentucky continue to grow as a destination for tourism and economic development, and a place to live and enjoy life.

The size and location of this property, and the vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. As state senator representing this district, my heart's desire is to drive a health revolution. We can build a next generation community with this health influence in mind. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

I ask for your full consideration of this request. As always, please do not hesitate to contact should you have questions or if I can be of assistance. I may be reached at 502-564-8100, extension 57993, [Shelley.Funkefrommeyer@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:Shelley.Funkefrommeyer@lrc.ky.gov), or by mail at Kentucky General Assembly, Capitol Annex, Room 290, 702 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3448.

Yours in service,

  
Shelley Funke Frommeyer  
State Senator  
District 24

SFF/jmg

cc: Andrew Wilhoite



January 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from the Kentucky Small Business Development Center (SBDC) that enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The Kentucky SBDC has been assisting the Commonwealth's small business community for over 41 years. As a seasoned, nationally accredited federally funded and state mandated program, the Kentucky SBDC strategically partners with successful economic development entities throughout Kentucky to generate new business growth, increase employment opportunities and sustain a healthy entrepreneurial ecosystem.

One of our most valued partnerships for the last several years has been with the City of Covington. With service centers statewide and an experienced and knowledgeable staff, the Kentucky SBDC provides unparalleled business coaching, consulting, and training services that help existing business owners and potential entrepreneurs succeed. The City of Covington SBDC is one of the highest performing centers in our network.

In closing, the Kentucky SBDC strongly supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky and we are confident of the success and benefits that will be realized by this economic development project.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me, Kristina Joyce, Kentucky SBDC State Director at [kjoyce@uky.edu](mailto:kjoyce@uky.edu) or 1-859-257-7744.

Thank you,

**Kristina Joyce** Digitally signed by Kristina Joyce  
Date: 2023.01.17 13:50:50 -05'00'

Kristina Joyce  
State Director

---

Kentucky Small Business Development Center - University of Kentucky  
330 East Main St., Suite 210  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: 859.257.7668  
[www.kentuckysbdc.com](http://www.kentuckysbdc.com)



# Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**Rachel Roberts**  
House Minority Whip  
67th Legislative District

February 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept my letter of support for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

As State Representative of neighboring Newport's district 67 and as a small business owner, I am encouraged for the future possibilities that will prosper from the Central Riverfront development project. The proposed space will be a community engagement hub that will attract new businesses and simultaneously increase tourism and local commerce.

I have always fought for infrastructure funding to go to the Northern Kentucky region because of our unique riverfront cities that provide connectivity to one another and nearby Ohio. With the recent federal bridge investment program providing \$1.385 billion to improve the Brent Spence Bridge there could not be a more opportune project to provide a destination for those traversing across the Ohio River.

The size and location of this property, and the vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. I hope that we can say we both had a hand in shaping that.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Roberts".

Rachel Roberts  
House Minority Whip



# Commonwealth of Kentucky

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

65th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
702 Capitol Avenue  
Capitol Annex Room 316  
Frankfort, KY 40601



502-564-8100 ext. 57973  
1-800-372-7181  
[Stephanie.Dietz@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Dietz@lrc.ky.gov)

**STEPHANIE A. DIETZ**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 2, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project application. The city is applying for the maximum \$25 million grant from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program from the US Department of Transportation to leverage \$80 million in public infrastructure.

This project will create a public square in Covington where visitors can soak in and enjoy the city's unique character and create economic opportunity for both workers and businesses that were lost. The award of RAISE grant money will send development of this project into warp speed and help Covington, the region, and Kentucky continue to grow as a destination for tourism, economic development, and to enjoy life.

Thank you for your time and consideration of City of Covington's RAISE application for this critical project to improve safety and connectivity in northern Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Dietz  
State Representative

SAD/jl



Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

## TRANSPORTATION CABINET

Department of Highways, District 6 Office  
421 Buttermilk Pike  
Covington, KY 41017  
859-341-2700

Jim Gray  
SECRETARY

February 20, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Please accept this letter as an expression of The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Northern Kentucky Office's support for the Covington Central Riverfront Development project located in Covington, KY. The loss of jobs and reduction in economic productivity at the project site resulting from the closure of the IRS site has impacted all of Northern Kentucky. Instead of allowing the 23-acre site to become dilapidated and remain unproductive, Covington and its partners are proactively developing public infrastructure and reconnecting the street grid through the project site to stimulate community and economic development.

As the Commonwealth's lead engineer for the Northern Kentucky Region, I believe that reconnecting the street grid provides much needed capacity and greater freedom of movement into the heart of Covington. This project will help alleviate congestion on the state routes within this footprint and provides opportunities for the complete street concepts by allowing a pedestrian and bike friendly atmosphere. These improvements will provide for a safer and more appealing transportation network, whether you are traveling by car, on a bike or on foot. *This project is being developed to compliment the Brent Spence Corridor Project.*

The Covington Central Riverfront Development project is a linchpin in regional community and economic development in Northern Kentucky. The funding for public infrastructure construction requested through this application is critical to the success of this project. As a supporter of this project, I request that you give this application full consideration. I am happy to discuss this project and how it impacts our transportation system. I will be happy to provide additional information about this worthy endeavor. You may contact me at the address above or by cellular phone at 859-391-9712.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Yeager".

Robert Yeager,  
Executive Director – District 6



Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

## TRANSPORTATION CABINET

200 Mero Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Jim Gray  
SECRETARY

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Covington Central Riverfront Development  
2023 RAISE grant application letter of support

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As a former Mayor, I recognize how important federal assistance is in building momentum for local initiatives that provide economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for communities. Combining that background with the partnership the City of Covington and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has built over the last 3 years since I have been Secretary, it is with great honor to provide this letter of support for the City's application for **2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funds** and encourage you to fund their full \$25 million request.

The Covington Central Riverfront area was home to an IRS regional processing center for 52 years until its closure in 2019. The loss of jobs and reduction in economic productivity at the project site resulting from the closure of the IRS site has severely and negatively impacted the City of Covington. Several city blocks were demolished and aggregated to form the 23-acre site that became home to the IRS processing facility. Instead of allowing the site to become dilapidated and remain unproductive, Covington and its partners are proactively reconnecting the street grid through the project site and adding other much needed public infrastructure, like water and fiber that will provide the foundation to reestablish neighborhoods and reconnect the community with the riverfront. It is my understanding, today, the site has been cleared awaiting \$80 million in infrastructure investments that this request will jump start.

I can think of no better local initiative and on behalf of KYTC, reiterate my support of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Gray".

Jim Gray  
Secretary



333 Madison Avenue  
Covington, KY 41011  
P 859.431.2075

Learning-grove.org

February 20, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Learning Grove is a nonprofit corporation that has served Covington and northern Kentucky families and their children for more than 45 years with high quality childcare and learning. In fact, we operated a childcare center on this redevelopment site on behalf of IRS and other federal employees under contract with the General Services Administration. The center continues to serve the children of area residents and workers. Learning Grove also coaches high school students in preparing for post-secondary education and career, again with a special commitment to serving students from Covington and the other urban cities.

Covington's central redevelopment plans will generate a mix of residential, commercial, and retail uses enhanced with public park-like space that take advantage of the site's proximity to the Ohio River. The redevelopment is designed to be a full-service location that will become the most attractive place in the tri-state to live, work, play and do business. Learning Grove's integral services on the site will make it even more appealing to employers, workers and families that locate there.

Learning Grove's headquarters are adjacent to the childcare center that we operate on the site, but Learning Grove operates centers and offers family support, after school and student coaching services throughout Cincinnati and northern Kentucky. We are grateful to the Biden administration's support of the new I-75/71 bridge that will greatly improve travel for our employees and families crossing the river.

If you would like additional information about our support, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Shannon Starkey-Taylor  
CEO





## COVINGTON OFFICE

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104 East Seventh Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
ph: 859-431-8200  
fax: 859-431-3009  
www.lablaw.org

Karen Hoskins Ginn  
*Interim Executive Director*  
104 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Covington, KY 41017  
859-431-8542

February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from Legal Aid of the Bluegrass for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project. Our program is a not-for-profit law firm providing free civil legal representation to people at or below the federal poverty level. The scope of our service is narrower than a typical private law firm. Our twenty-six attorneys focus their attention on stabilizing and preserving the most basic life needs of our community's vulnerable population. Our clients do not receive money when they win; they preserve needed government benefits, retain housing in a crowded, expensive rental market, keep their family safe from violence, and achieve enhanced employment with an expunged criminal record. Legal Aid clients depend greatly on a community that works for them, as Covington does.

In its newest project, the City of Covington is revitalizing what had been a large footprint of hidden administrative employment in the former IRS center. Generally, those jobs were not open to our clients. Low income workers depend on service jobs. Also, they must access those jobs without reliable transportation. Covington's vibrant mixed-use project will attract businesses who need service workers. Its location is walkable / bikable from several contiguous neighborhoods – the ones where our clients live. The design beautifies the city for them and also for tourism and suburban visitors. Being one block from the Ohio River, it is the gateway to the city from several entry points.

I will gladly tell you more about how this project works for low income Kentuckians. Our support is simply one more connection with the City of Covington in improving the lifestyle for all people. Please reach out to me at any contact method in this letter.

I, personally, have had close family and employment connections with Covington for decades. Some of those years were bleak for shopping, entertainment, health care, and therefore living and working. This project continues the bright trajectory Covington has enjoyed recently. The Department's partnership through this funding is most certainly an opportunity to improve the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Hoskins Ginn". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Karen Hoskins Ginn  
Interim Executive Director



## Life Learning Center™

20 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Covington, KY 41011

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#### President

Alecia Webb-Edgington

#### Chief Operating Officer

Denise Govan

859-431-0100

[Info@lifelearningcenter.us](mailto:Info@lifelearningcenter.us)

[www.lifelearningcenter.us](http://www.lifelearningcenter.us)



February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Life Learning Center enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Life Learning Center delivers a holistic, integrated continuum of education and care to help “at risk” citizens reach their highest potential. We are supported in this endeavor by more than 100 non-profits that are community and residential partners. LLC is building a caring and serving community by helping people learn, secure and sustain a living wage career.

LLC supports the City of Covington in this endeavor focusing on the following criteria:

- Quality of Life
- Mobility and Community Connectivity
- Partnership and Collaboration

The individuals served by LLC would benefit from this effort as underserved communities are desperate for multi-modes of transportation, as well as connectivity for enhanced employment opportunities.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Alecia Webb-Edgington, President/CEO, Life Learning Center, [awebbedgington@lifelearningcenter.us](mailto:awebbedgington@lifelearningcenter.us), 859.431.0100.

The monumental undertaking of this development, size and location of property, as well as the vision for transforming Covington’s Riverfront, should leave no doubts about its significance. Generations from now, will speak about how this project revolutionized this area. We need you to have a hand in shaping that transformation.

Thank you,

Alecia Webb-Edgington  
President/CEO, Life Learning Center



February 1, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Northern Kentucky Convention and Visitors Bureau/meetNKY enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The Northern Kentucky CVB is the organization in the Northern Kentucky area that creates visitor marketing programs and generates new economic impact for the region from meetings, events and conventions. We work closely with the City of Covington on new development projects that impact the visitor economy including the promotion of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center located in downtown Covington adjacent to the Central Riverfront District.

We feel this project and development is critical for Covington and our effort in marketing and hopefully expanding the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. We believe the Central Riverfront Project will provide a critical connection point for dining and entertainment for the convention district, give us a competitive advantage in the region with a vibrant district that includes access to outdoor entertainment and links the riverfront district to the soon to be built Brent Spence Bridge companion project allowing better access into the city core.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me directly at 859-655-4167 or via email at [jkirkpatrick@meetnky.com](mailto:jkirkpatrick@meetnky.com).

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,

Julie Kirkpatrick, CDME President & CEO, meetNKY



Institute for Health Innovation  
Health Innovation Center 225  
Nunn Drive  
Highland Heights, Kentucky 41099  
(859) 572-5376  
nku.edu/ihl

5 February 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Northern Kentucky University's Institute for Health Innovation and the Collaborative for Economic Engagement enthusiastically support the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The **NKU Institute for Health Innovation (IHI)** was established in 2018 to pioneer solutions to the health challenges facing the Northern Kentucky region. We drive change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs by seizing the opportunity to work with communities, forging partnerships, and envisioning the future of healthcare through innovative solutions. Relevant to this grant application, we established **Northern Kentucky Collaborative for Economic Engagement** as the key connector for entrepreneurs, private sector leaders, investors, educational programs, incubators, accelerators, governmental and economic development organizations, and non-profits. Located in "Innovation Alley" in Covington, the Collaborative leverages regional agencies and programs as well as NKU's expertise in data analytics, health, logistics, and entrepreneurial innovation to provide the tools that entrepreneurs need to thrive: resources, knowledge, and talent. And the Collaborative has been successful over the past 3 years, we have received over \$3 million in federal grant dollars to support entrepreneurship and innovation in the region, with a special focus on underserved communities. In that time, we have connected with 100s of entrepreneurs and facilitated raising more than \$400 million in capital investments for new companies in our backyard.

Covington played a key role in our success. Not only have they provided a rent subvention on our space, but they are ready partners for young companies looking to establish storefronts in the area. Covington leadership is committed to establishing the city as THE place in the region for innovation and business development.



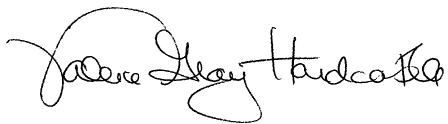
Additionally, the IHI is a partner on the Commonwealth's \$15 million initiative to support a commercial wet lab in Covington. This lab promises to be a "game-changer" for both the greater Cincinnati MSA and for Kentucky as a whole, for there is no such resource currently available for either population. This wet lab will ensure that Covington becomes and remains a central hub for biotechnology and bio-health innovation and entrepreneurship

The proposed Central Riverfront Development for Covington dovetails naturally with Covington's, the Collaborative's, and IHI's partnerships around Innovation and Economic Competitiveness. In particular, expanding the availability of a mixed- use environment with flexibility to accommodate a changing market and a diversity of workplace environments will only enhance Covington's longstanding commitment to and support of innovation and entrepreneurship in Northern Kentucky.

Covington's proposed Central Riverfront Development, coupled with the forthcoming Brent Spence Bridge project, will promote economic development interactions throughout the greater Cincinnati region by facilitating easy connections between southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky – already highlighted as one of the top regions for entrepreneurship and innovation in the Midwest.

If you would like additional information about our support or the role this project will play in shaping the future of Northern Kentucky, please feel free to contact me using the information above. Covington's vision for the riverfront space leaves no doubt about its centrality for the exciting future that awaits our region. It is thrilling to consider that you could help accelerate this journey into future success.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Gray Hardcastle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Valerie Gray Hardcastle

Vice-President for Health Innovation

St. Elizabeth Healthcare Executive Director for the Institute for Health Innovation



February 10, 2023

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

**RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application:**

The Northern Kentucky Pride Center enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront Development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky. The NKY Pride Center's mission is to advance LGBTQA+ equity and inclusion efforts in the region by meeting the needs for community-based services and programs for LGBTQA+ Northern Kentuckians. We work closely with the City of Covington in these efforts, and it is because of the City's support and partnership that our work was able to shift beyond an annual pride festival, to a brick and mortar center serving the Northern Kentucky LGBTQA+ community year round.

The City of Covington is the NKY Pride Center's largest supporter, providing sponsorship for support services and community-building networking events for LGBTQA+ and ally Northern Kentuckians. The City of Covington has been the presenting sponsor of the NKY Pride Festival for the last several years, is the presenting sponsor of the NKY Pride Community Awards (since the event began four years ago), provides funding for Center programming aimed at serving LGBTQA+ individuals, families, and youth, and, lastly, has taken a strong stand in support of LGBTQA+ Covingtonians for decades. The NKY Pride Center works closely with the City to ensure best practices within City Hall, aligned with the Municipal Equality Index and we worked with the City to pass the first ban on conversion therapy for minors in Kentucky in 2020. The City of Covington is a leader in LGBTQA+ inclusion not only in our region, but throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Northern Kentucky Pride Center supports the Covington Central Riverfront Development, and we intend to utilize that space through this partnership to further our mission of celebrating diversity, visibility, and representation. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City of Covington and utilizing the Covington Central Riverfront Development to grow and improve our accessible, community-based services and educational and social opportunities for LGBTQA+ Northern Kentuckians. The NKY Pride Center will continue to work closely with the City of Covington to utilize the Development as an inclusive space for diverse, cultural education and programming events.

If you would like additional information about our support, please feel free to reach out to me directly. I am happy to discuss the impact of this project and our support of the City of Covington. We see endless opportunities for our region through the Covington Central Riverfront Development.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want, but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,

*Bonnie M. Meyer, Ph.D.*

Bonnie M. Meyer, Ph.D.  
President, NKY Pride Center  
230 W. Pike St.  
Covington, KY. 41011  
(513) 461 - 4878



Northern Kentucky Area Development District

22 Spiral Drive / Florence, KY 41042

Phone (859) 283-1885 / Fax (859) 283-8178 / TDD (859) 282-2707

[www.nkadd.org](http://www.nkadd.org)

---

Tara Johnson-Noem, Executive Director

January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

**PURPOSE SENTENCE:**

The Northern Kentucky Area Development District enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

**ORGANIZATION – OVERVIEW and PARTNERSHIPS:**

The NKADD is a collaboration of local Leaders and staff educating and empowering communities by implementing quality services through specific areas of expertise including aging, community development, human services, and workforce development in the Northern Kentucky Region.

**RELEVANT CRITERIA/REASONS FOR SUPPORT:**

*First and foremost, the project will be a tremendous positive for the economic development and Tourism for the City of Covington and regionally.*

*The NKADD believes this project will help expand the bike and pedestrian footprint for the City of Covington and connecting with the Northern Kentucky Riverfront Region as one community.*

**CONTACT INFO:**

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact  
Jeff Thelen 859-283-8170 [Jeff.thelen@nkadd.org](mailto:Jeff.thelen@nkadd.org)

**CLOSING**

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,  
Jeff Thelen  
Transportation Planner  
NKADD



Chamber of  
Commerce

February 22, 2023  
Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for the City of Covington, Kentucky's "Covington Central Riverfront development" project.

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Chamber of Commerce in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Greater Cincinnati with 1,700 members. Our mission is to promote business growth and an improved economy, resulting in a better quality of life for all. The "Covington Central Riverfront Development" project directly serves our mission.

It will provide a mix of land uses, including office space, hotel rooms, apartments, and condominiums, as well as community gathering spaces and a strengthened sense of community. All of which are desperately needed in our region. Because of its proximity to the NKY Convention Center (located adjacent to the project), it will not only provide additional amenities for our businesses, residents and guests, it will also provide expansion opportunities for future growth.

One of the most compelling aspects of this project is its location between the largest federal investment in Kentucky and Ohio history, (the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor project), and the Riverfront Commons project, which will help connect people throughout our region to multimodal transportation opportunities. This will be critical to the talent serving our logistics, health sciences and I.T. sectors surrounding this site. There isn't a better example in the country of a project that could transform our collective quality of life.

The size and location of this property, and the vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. This project will help continue to bring life back to our urban core and will have a tremendous economic impact on Covington and the entire Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region for generations to come. We need your help and support in making this happen.

Feel free to contact me for additional information about our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Cooper".

Brent Cooper  
President/CEO  
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce





January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from the Northern Kentucky Convention Center for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

The Northern Kentucky Convention Center opened in 1998 and is adjacent to the development project Covington is undertaking. The Center hopes to expand south into the development area to continue to increase our economic impact on the Northern Kentucky region as a tourism/convention destination. Bringing in outside visitors and dollars to our area to support the regional economy.

The Covington Central Riverfront Development project is vital for maintaining our economic competitiveness in the Hospitality industry as well as promoting long-term growth and other broader economic and fiscal benefits.

The design promotes safety for residents and visitors through the implementation of transportation-efficient land use and design. It is a mixed use development that is compact and walkable while maintaining green space and neighborhood centers. These are all desirable not only to residents but to visitors attending conferences and events.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me at 859-261-1500 or [glandrum@nkycc.com](mailto:glandrum@nkycc.com)

We are looking forward to seeing the vision for these 23 acres come to fruition. Generations from now the impact of this area will support the region as a whole. We need your support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gretchen Landrum". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gretchen Landrum  
Executive Director  
Northern Kentucky Convention Center



26 January 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation (Tri-ED) enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky, located in Kenton County.

Tri-ED serves as the primary economic development company for Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties, providing marketing, and business retention and expansion services for the region.

Since its founding in 1987, Tri-ED has led the successful relocation or expansion efforts for 746 business projects, representing more than 71,800 primary industry jobs created with a capital investment of more than \$9 billion.

In 2022, Tri-ED assisted 19 companies with expansions or relocations. BM2 Freight Services, Inc., a third-party logistics company based in Covington, is one example. BM2 is investing \$2.3 million at Covington's RiverCenter to lease another 8,000 square feet of space, creating 56 full-time jobs.

BM2 is only blocks away from the proposed Central Riverfront development, which could support a mix of land uses, including office space, hotel rooms, apartments, and condominiums, bringing back to life an area in the heart of downtown Covington. Possible plans for this walkable site also include a levee park, public plaza, and possible expansion of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.



Covington is within a one-day drive of more than half of the U.S. population, and I-75 is a major freight thoroughfare from Canada to Florida. The improvement of the I-71/I-75 Brent Spence Bridge connecting Cincinnati and Covington, and the addition of a companion bridge, will only enhance accessibility.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please reach out to Tri-ED CEO Lee Crume at [LAC@NorthernKentuckyUSA.com](mailto:LAC@NorthernKentuckyUSA.com) if needed.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want you, but also need you, to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee A. Crume", is positioned above the printed name.

Lee A. Crume  
President & CEO

**Correy Eimer, Director**  
**Michelle Cestaric, Board Chair**

January 31, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of support from the Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board for the City of Covington, Kentucky's *Covington Central Riverfront Development Project*.

The Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (NKWIB) drives innovative policy and directs funding for workforce investment within the Northern Kentucky eight-county Workforce Development Area. The City of Covington has been a steadfast partner in this work for years and has proven to be a thought leader when it comes to formulating strategies that position the city, and the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region, for continued economic growth and prosperity.

The NKWIB is currently partnering with the City of Covington to improve workforce outcomes for Covington residents and businesses through a project called *Covington Works*. With the City's strong support and financial investment, the NKWIB conducted a thorough assessment of the workforce needs of both Covington's residents and its employers, and we have come up with a multifaceted plan to address those needs. One of the most important aspects of our plan includes partnering with local employers to offer a transportation solution for their workers who do not have access to adequate transportation for their daily work commute, and the NKWIB is proud to collaborate with the City of Covington on this innovative project.

The NKWIB expresses its full support of the *Covington Central Riverfront Development Project* because we believe a project of this type and magnitude will foster greater economic competitiveness and opportunity across the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region, ultimately leading to a higher quality of life for Northern Kentucky residents, most particularly Covington residents.

Of course, "workforce" is the NKWIB's priority, and we understand that our local workforce will be positively impacted, as well, because of this project. This project is another example of how the City of Covington has gone above and beyond to leverage various partnerships and resources for the betterment of the region.

I would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please reach out to me at [correy.eimer@nkadd.org](mailto:correy.eimer@nkadd.org) if needed.

Thank you,



Correy Eimer  
Director, Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board





Ohio River Way  
P.O. Box 812  
Cincinnati, Ohio

#### OUR BOARD

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Frances Mennone

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Susan Schneider

Wym Portman

Jody Robinson

Simon Foster

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Simon Foster

Rick Greiwe

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Mike Perleberg

John Charles Smith

Tanner Yess

Wendi Waugh

Patrick Woodside

February 16, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

RE: Covington Central Riverfront – RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Ohio River Way, we would like to formally offer this letter of support endorsing a RAISE grant request on behalf of the City of Covington for the former IRS site. The twenty three acre site sits on Covington's riverfront and its renewal is an opportunity to connect a large urban populace to the river. The single greatest natural asset of the region is the Ohio River. It and all it affords, have been largely cut off from the underserved for decades. Through our work, and the revitalization of large urban sites like this, the community has an opportunity to recast its relationship to the river with better access for all.

The Ohio River Way connects people and communities to opportunities for adventure on and along the Ohio River from Portsmouth, OH to West Point, KY. In 2022, the Ohio River Way Mayor's and Elected Officials Summit, hosted by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, was attended by more than 70 federal, state and local elected officials from communities along a 275-mile stretch of the Ohio River. The City of Covington, and Mayor Meyer, are founding member in that effort as they sit in the middle of our regional effort and wholeheartedly support the effort for reconnecting communities to the river.

Through partnership and collaboration this project clearly advances the goals of the RAISE program by acknowledging the once in a life-time opportunity to rework the waterfront for the people.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Frances Kern Mennone

Ohio River Way  
Board of Directors

February 10, 2023

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



RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region, we recognize the unique value that this project will bring to the area once completed.

The Covington Central Riverfront development area sits next to the Clay Wade Baily Bridge and the Brent Spence Bridge, a nationally significant freight corridor, and represents a major economic opportunity for the region. Funding from the City's successful RAISE Grant application will support the infrastructure needed for the redevelopment of a former IRS processing center that closed in 2019.

The City's application for \$25 million of RAISE grant funds makes up just a portion of the \$84 million estimated cost to complete the site's infrastructure improvements. OKI is confident that the resulting benefit to the region will surpass the project's cost many times over. Additionally, the importance of this site, with its proximity to the Brent Spence Bridge corridor, cannot be overstated. The eventual development of the site will surely transform into a key part of Covington's identity and an anchor for the area.

Please accept this strong letter of support for the City of Covington's 2022 RAISE grant application for the Covington Riverfront development area. If there is any further support I can provide, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Policinski".

Mark R. Policinski

**Judge Gary Moore**  
President

**Mark R. Policinski**  
CEO

720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 | Phone: 513.621.6300 | Fax: 513.621.9325 | [www.oki.org](http://www.oki.org)  
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111 Brent Spence Square \* Covington, KY 41011 \* Phone (859) 581-4445 \* FAX (859) 581-0939

February 13, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application  
Panorama Apartments] enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project  
submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg;

Panorama Apartments is a non-profit agency that provides attractive, affordable housing for Senior Citizens of moderate income. We have been at this site since 1967 when the City of Covington and Kenton County formed a collaborative to establish the agency for Seniors of the surrounding community. We currently provide housing in 241 apartments at this location.

We are excited for the development of the site which sits directly across from our buildings. With the projected mixed use of the site our residents look forward to the opportunities that this project may bring for their use and enrichment.

We would be happy to share additional details about our support for this project. Please reach out to Karen Hargett at (859) 581-4445 or [Khargett@panorama-aps.com](mailto:Khargett@panorama-aps.com), if needed.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,

Karen Hargett  
Executive Director



# Plumbers, Pipefitters & Mechanical Equipment Service Local Union No. 392

1228 Central Parkway ■ Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-7500  
(513) 241-1760 ■ Fax (513) 440-0472 ■ <http://www.local392.com>

*United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada*

February 15, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application**

Please accept this letter of support from Plumbers, Pipefitters and M.E.S. Local 392 for the City of Covington, Kentucky's Covington Central Riverfront development project.

Local 392 has been in the Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky community for over 111 years and our members have worked on many of the projects that make this area such an amazing place to live, work and raise a family.

*Our 2300 + members work for contractors throughout the region and are vital members of the community. We pay taxes, coach youth sports, and provide the safest, most well trained workers anywhere.*

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact me at (513) 614-7779 or [bill@local392.com](mailto:bill@local392.com)

The riverfront revitalization project in Covington has the ability to change the lives of residents in the area by providing good paying careers in the construction industry.

Thank you,

William E. Froehle  
Business Manager, Local 392





Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

February 1, 2023

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (The Port,) I offer my full support to the City of Covington, Kentucky, to be selected as a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grantee through its application for funding of the Covington Central Riverfront Development project.

The Port is an economic development agency in Hamilton County, Ohio, that works every day to stimulate our regional economy's growth. Partnering with public and private entities, The Port redevelops and revitalizes commercial, industrial, and residential properties to support economic prosperity through quality housing, fulfilling jobs, and vibrant communities. The Port is on a mission to bring all properties within our geographical footprint to their highest and most productive use. While sometimes that work includes building up vacant parcels of land, more often it concerns cleaning up blighted properties similar to the former IRS site the City of Covington demolished and remediated for future reuse.

The intention of the community to reclaim this land for regional economic impact aligns with The Port's goal to make all real estate work and Covington's aim to improve their city for businesses, families, professionals, and tourism. Furthermore, it complements the historic investment President Biden traveled to Covington to announce, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan, which allocates 1.6 billion dollars towards a new Brent Spence Bridge. As entities on both sides of the Ohio River mobilize to make strategic use of this momentum for the future of our respective jurisdictions, please consider the direct benefits to the people of Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky:

- more open access to the river and surrounding greenspaces.
- more opportunities for local entrepreneurs to locate their businesses in dense economic corridors.
- more partnerships for regional efforts and tourism events.

As a public financing agency and real estate development institution, The Port knows the vital role strategic economic investment plays in unlocking places of potential. This property, and the vision for it, as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its value to those who call Ohio and Kentucky home. Generations from now, the Covington Central Riverfront will be a core part of our regional identity. I appreciate your consideration in shaping that outcome.

I am happy to share additional details about my support for this project if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura N. Brunner".

Laura N. Brunner  
President & CEO





100 O'Fallon Avenue  
P.O. Box 74131  
Dayton, KY 41074

# QUEEN CITY

RIVERBOATS & YACHTS

(859) 292-8687  
QueenCityRiverboats.com  
sales@QueenCityRiverboats.com

---

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Covington and the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development. As a transportation manager in the region, I recognize within this project a significant potential to substantially improve infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, and enhance community connectivity.

Recent discussions have uncovered an interest in adding bus stops that service TANK transit, Greyhound, and the Covington water taxi to the scope of work for this project. The added convenience of TANK transit and water taxi service company stops will greatly benefit both residents and visitors of Covington. Additionally, Greyhound bus riders are currently limited to a single location situated about ten miles north of the city center in Arlington Heights. The introduction of a Greyhound bus stop and water taxi stop in Covington not only expands the choices available to travelers, but also serves as a representation of the promising advancements anticipated in the future of Covington's transportation infrastructure.

The CCR development will help to build a strategic multi-modal transportation hub for the region and connect regional bus facilities with local vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle uses. With walkability to Covington and downtown Cincinnati's central business district, CCR's central location in northern Kentucky presents an opportunity to park and walk or ride to both sides of the river. The development's 649-space public parking garage will offer accessible parking to the nearby TANK transit center, any future bus stops within the neighborhood, and a new water taxi service stop, as well as provide a location for a new Greyhound bus stop.

CCR brings with it an opportunity to establish a highly effective transportation hub in the city, and a promise to foster connections and enhance efficiency for residents, workers, and commuters passing through Covington. I am proud to enthusiastically share my support for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

*Shelly Lemker*

Cruise Coordinator





600 Central Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
513.621.2453  
[cincyredbike.org](http://cincyredbike.org)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Covington and the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development. As the Executive Director of Red Bike, the Cincy region's non-profit station-based bike share system, I recognize within this project a significant potential to substantially improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, and enhance community connectivity.

In long-range discussions with the City of Covington, Red Bike has identified expansion within this project as key to expanding service and adoption of bike share and micromobility. With the recent discussions regarding adding bus stops that service TANK transit, Greyhound, and the Covington water taxi to the scope of work for this project, we see the creation of multi-modal hubs that include bike share and link communities and opportunities throughout the region. This co-location of services serves as a representation of the promising advancements anticipated in the future of Covington's transportation infrastructure.

The CCR development will help to build a strategic multi-modal transportation hub for the region and connect regional bus facilities with local vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle uses. With walkability to Covington and downtown Cincinnati's central business district, CCR's central location in northern Kentucky presents an opportunity to park and walk or ride to both sides of the river. The development's 649-space public parking garage will offer accessible parking to the nearby TANK transit center, any future bus stops within the neighborhood, and a new water taxi service stop, as well as provide a location for a new Greyhound bus stop.

CCR brings with it an opportunity to establish a highly effective transportation hub in the city, and a promise to foster connections and enhance efficiency for residents, workers, and commuters passing through Covington. I am proud to enthusiastically share my support for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug McClintock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug McClintock

Executive Director

Red Bike



3 East Fourth Street  
Suite 301  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
513.562.8474  
www.REDICincinnati.com

February 3, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Please accept this letter of support from REDI Cincinnati for the City of Covington, Kentucky's, Covington Central Riverfront development project.

REDI Cincinnati is the first point of contact for companies considering the 16-county, three-state Cincinnati region as a perfect place to locate and grow. We're economic development experts who bring the area's top business and community leaders together to ignite the regional economy.

Sites and infrastructure are integral to the economic vibrancy of a region, and the Covington Central Riverfront Development project aligns with the Sites and Infrastructure pillar of REDI's 5-year strategic plan. This project directly impacts two of our priority areas for investment – Urban Redevelopment and Class A office space.

Redevelopment of the 23-acre riverfront site is vital to promoting long-term economic growth throughout the entire region. Its central location and proximity to both Northern Kentucky and Downtown Cincinnati make it an ideal location. The vision for the redevelopment of this site provides the opportunity to both attract and grow strategically identified businesses and high-paying jobs to the community and region.

Recently, Ohio, Kentucky, Cincinnati, and Covington received federal funding in support of the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor, which is an integral component of the transportation structure for not only the Cincinnati region but also the nation at large. Coupling these two projects together will have a meaningful and lasting impact on the economic competitiveness and quality of life within the region.

It is our pleasure to support the Covington Central Riverfront Development. If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Andrea Pinho, REDI Cincinnati's director of site selection and real estate ([apinho@redicincinnati.com](mailto:apinho@redicincinnati.com); 513-579-3131).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimm Lauterbach".

Kimm Lauterbach  
President and CEO



1/27/2023



Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Roebing Point Business Association enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The Roebing Point Business Association is a collaborative initiative of the businesses found in the historic business district at the southern end of the John Roebing Bridge, to market, develop and create a pedestrian friendly business environment.

We offer our support to this project which will fill in a huge gap in an overwhelmingly pedestrian friendly city. As of now and in the past, the former IRS site has created a huge disconnect which has and still creates a very dangerous area to walk from one district to the next.

The future of the 23 acre site has the potential to bring a city with great historical charm and walkability to another level, while boosting the overall economy and connectivity. This site is a difference maker. It's not very often that an opportunity for growth happens to an area with great proximity to a city like Cincinnati. This property must be one of the top sites in the nation when it comes to potential economic benefits to a city. It's a game changer.

Northern Kentucky, Covington and the Downtown Cincinnati district will all benefit from the development of this project. Much attention has been given to the adjacent Brent Spence Bridge in recent months. There is no doubt that you and many government officials (including President Biden) have driven past this large empty parcel. That bridge is the heart of the nation's economic vascular system. The former IRS site is the heart of an amazing city on the rise and potentially a great opportunity for the Greater Cincinnati area to land another major corporate partner.

As a resident and business owner in Covington, Kentucky, I can't be more excited about the potential of this generation changing opportunity.

Thank You!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Dickmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Richard Dickmann  
Roebing Point Business Association  
President  
859-743-5073  
richard@smokejustis.com



February 20, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

The Salyers Group enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

The Salyers Group is a diversified investment company holding assets in real estate, retail, entertainment, fashion, and hospitality. Our portfolio companies include The Madison Event Center, Hotel Covington, Donna Salyers Fabulous-Furs and Donna Salyers' Fabulous-Bridal.

In addition, the Salyers Group specializes in purchasing and rehabbing historic buildings in the Covington central business district. With the recently opened expansion, North by Hotel Covington, we were inspired by the rich history of our community and created an entirely new, lavish experience unlike any other. Like Hotel Covington, we have taken a historical building (formerly the Covington, Kentucky YMCA), preserved the history and integrity, and modernized the interior. After over three decades in the wedding, fashion and special events industry, the Salyers Group continues to couple historic elegance and charm with all our companies. We strive to help build a sense of community in Covington, while providing spaces for those to build lasting memories with family or friends. Our total investment in the Covington community exceeds \$100 million.

If you would like additional information about our support, please contact Guy van Rooyen at [Gvanrooyen@salyersgroup.com](mailto:Gvanrooyen@salyersgroup.com) or at (859)912-0102.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but also need you to have a hand in shaping that.

Thank you,  
Guy van Rooyen  
Chief Executive Officer



**February 21, 2023**

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support for the City of Covington, Kentucky, in its application for the Covington Central Riverfront development project. Covington is applying for the maximum \$25 million grant from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program from the US Department of Transportation to leverage \$80 million in public infrastructure.

As the wastewater and stormwater management agency for Northern Kentucky, Sanitation District No. 1 is excited about the positive impacts this project will have upon our region. By reducing the amount of impervious surface with tree-lined streets and boulevards, increased greenspace and native plantings, the Covington Central Riverfront project will increase combined sewer system capacity and improve water quality in the Ohio River.

Another aspect of SD1's mission is to support the economic vitality of our community. The Covington project will do just that, creating economic opportunity for local workers and businesses that were impacted by the closing of the former Internal Revenue Service data processing facility. The project will also create a civic hub for the city, attracting visitors to enjoy Covington's unique character and history. The award of RAISE grant money will make all of this a reality much sooner, helping the city, our region and the Commonwealth of Kentucky continue to grow as a destination for tourism and economic development.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the City of Covington's RAISE application for this critical project to improve safety and connectivity in Northern Kentucky.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Chaney".

Adam Chaney  
Executive Director  
Sanitation District No. 1



February 1, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Covington Central Riverfront Development (former IRS site) Grant Application

Southbank Partners enthusiastically supports the Covington Central Riverfront development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

As the regional economic development organization for the urban core of Northern Kentucky, Southbank Partners regularly works with the City of Covington on various projects related to transportation and infrastructure, vibrancy and placemaking, as well as entrepreneurship and small business. One of our legacy projects with the City of Covington is Riverfront Commons, a 20-mile multi-use path in Northern Kentucky along the banks of the Ohio River. This project is directly impact by both the Brent Spence Bridge and the Covington Central Riverfront development whereby it will connect residents, workers, and visitors to a much needed safe, accessible, and high-quality bicycle and pedestrian facilities

The City of Covington has accomplished monumental strides to get the former IRS Site to where it is today. Their commitment to a developing 23 acres of their downtown riverfront into a place that embraces the fabric of its community instead of a master developer shows a pivotal decision to reshape the very identity and economics of Covington long into its future. This site will no longer be an island with it's back on the riverfront but rather a new safe connection to and from the riverfront and adjacent business districts. Furthermore, the core of this project also shows a commitment to community engagement to ensure this development will be safe, sustainable, and create economic competitiveness and opportunity to local entrepreneurs, business owners and life-long Covington for many generations.

The size and location of this property, and our vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt of its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington's identity. We not only want but need you to have a hand in shaping that.

If you would like additional information about our support, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Will Weber  
President & CEO  
Southbank Partners





February 5, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

The Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) writes this letter in support of the City of Covington and the Covington Central Riverfront development (CCR).

TANK is the public transportation system that provides service to Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties in Northern Kentucky, as well as downtown Cincinnati, via fixed-route mass transportation and paratransit services to the region. TANK is the sole public transit provider within the City of Covington, with 7 bus routes offering vital transportation services to residents.

As such, TANK recognizes the potential for this project to enhance infrastructure, economic growth, and community connectivity in the area. TANK's primary transit hub in the region, the Covington Transit Center, is located adjacent to the CCR site. The proposed restoration of the street grid and mixed-use development pattern will be beneficial to TANK, as it will increase population and employment numbers within a short walk to nearly every bus route in our network. Discussions with the City of Covington have uncovered an interest in adding TANK bus stops and passenger amenities—which are currently insufficient in the corridors that link the Clay Wade Bailey Bridge to the Covington Transit Center—into the scope of work of this project.

The CCR development will help to build a strategic multi-modal transportation hub for the region and connect regional bus facilities with pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular uses. With walkability to Covington and downtown Cincinnati's central business district, CCR's prime location in Northern Kentucky presents an opportunity to park and walk or ride to both sides of the river. The development's public parking garage will offer parking accessible to TANK's Covington Transit Center, future bus stops in the development, and a new water taxi service stop, as well as provide a location for a new Greyhound bus stop. Taken together, all of this will greatly expand transportation choices for residents and visitors, and we look forward to coordinating our efforts with the developers to ensure that transit access is easy and convenient for those that wish to use it.

From our perspective, this project has the potential to be a more transit-friendly development than what our region has seen in many years. CCR brings with it the opportunity to establish a transit-rich hub in the city, foster connections, and enhance efficiency for residents, workers, and visitors in Covington, and TANK is glad to share our support for this endeavor.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Tussey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Olivia Tussey

Transit Planner



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PO Box 14270  
Cincinnati, OH 45250

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513.541.1538  
[www.tristatetrails.org](http://www.tristatetrails.org)

January 30, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Tri-State Trails supports the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development project submitted by the City of Covington, Kentucky.

Tri-State Trails has been a longtime advocate for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the City of Covington. Most recently, we have partnered with both Covington and Newport, Kentucky to prepare a joint Bicycle Transportation Plan. This plan will recommend and prioritize infrastructure investments to connect the active transportation network between the urban cores of Kenton and Campbell Counties.

The CCR development project is proposed to include new pedestrian and bike oriented design elements such as sidewalks, bike parking, green space, and access to the Riverfront Commons trail. As we work to make our region more walkable, bikeable, and accessible, projects like the CCR will ensure that redevelopment of the urban core allows for residents to not have to rely on a car for every trip.

We are pleased to support this application for Covington Central Riverfront Development, a project that will be a core part of reconnecting Covington's street grid to the Ohio Riverfront.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Wade Johnston, AICP  
Executive Director  
Tri-State Trails

BRAD R. WENSTRUP  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT OHIO

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

PERMANENT SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON  
INTELLIGENCE

WWW.WENSTRUP.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

February 23, 2022

2419 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3164

7954 BEECHMONT AVENUE  
SUITE 200  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45255  
(513) 474-7777

170 NORTH MAIN STREET  
PEEBLES, OHIO 45660  
(513) 605-1380

4350 AICHOLTZ ROAD  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45245  
(513) 605-1389

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

**RE: City of Covington, Kentucky Application for FY23 RAISE Grant Funding**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I ask you to give all due consideration to the application submitted by the City of Covington, KY for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. If awarded, these funds will be used towards the larger \$85 million public infrastructure investment and redevelopment of a former IRS site called the Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) development project.

Initially starting in 2016, the CCR project is well underway with demolition of the IRS buildings complete; all known environmental hazards are removed, and design development will be complete this month. Once completed, the CCR project will complement the plans for the Brent Spence Bridge (BSB) companion bridge; the site is located between the Clay Wade Bailey and Roebling Bridges and abuts the BSB plan area. CCR open access to the river, provide greenspace for families and tourists, and support local businesses on both sides of the river and have a greater economic impact on the tri-state region. CCR will also improve regional tourism efforts and partnerships such as BLINK.

I ask the Department of Transportation to extend all due consideration to the grant application submitted by the City of Covington, KY. Please keep my office informed of the status of this application.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad R. Wenstrup".

Brad R. Wenstrup  
U.S. Representative

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3501**

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to convey my support for the RAISE Grant application submitted by the City of Covington to help fund the \$85 million Covington Central Riverfront (CCR) Development project on the 23-acre site of the former Internal Revenue Service facility in Northern Kentucky.

Located between the Clay Wade Bailey and Roebling Bridges, the CCR Development project will complement plans for the Brent Spence Bridge companion bridge – a historic project in its own right that is being funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The CCR Development project will have an enormous and far-reaching economic impact on the tri-state area – turbocharging the region's competitiveness in attracting businesses, families, professionals, and tourism, while opening access to the Ohio River and enhancing greenspace.

The size and location of the CCR Development project, and the City of Covington's vision for it as laid out in conceptual drawings, should leave no doubt as to its importance. Generations from now, this will be a core part of Covington and the region's identity – and I respectfully request your support in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and investment in critical regional infrastructure improvements like the Covington Central Riverfront Development project.

Sincerely,



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



THOMAS MASSIE  
4TH DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

2453 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-3465

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
CHAIR - ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, REGULATORY REFORM,  
AND ANTITRUST SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

541 BUTTERMILK PIKE, SUITE 208  
CRESCENT SPRINGS, KY 41017  
(859) 426-0080

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

110 WEST JEFFERSON STREET  
SUITE 100  
LAGRANGE, KY 40031  
(502) 265-9119

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

RULES COMMITTEE

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application submitted by the City of Covington for the Covington Central Riverfront development project.

The City of Covington has purchased a 23-acre property, previously an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data processing facility, which was once the area's largest employer. Rather than allowing the site and existing structures to dilapidate, the city is working proactively to redevelop the premises. Funding from the grant would be used toward Phase 2 of the development which will include two levels of structured public parking, private office, residential, and retail space, and an outdoor area for public gatherings.

This project will revitalize an area in my district and potentially create thousands of new jobs for my constituents. I ask that you give every consideration for the RAISE Grant to be used toward the betterment of Covington and the people of Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress

TM/cp

January 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write on behalf of my constituents with the City of Covington regarding their competitive grant application with the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE Discretionary Grant Program.

It is my understanding that, if awarded, the City of Covington would use this funding to construct public infrastructure at the site of the former Covington IRS facility. The IRS facility in Covington was once the largest employer in the city and remained a large employer until its closure in 2019. At its height, over 4,000 full-time and seasonal employees worked at the facility, and their payroll taxes funded a significant portion of the City of Covington's general fund. Closure of the facility marked over fifty years that the data center processed tax returns for citizens from all over our country. Like the facility before it, Covington aims for the new development to be a fundamental part of the city.

I am told that the City of Covington has demolished the former structure, situated on a 23-acre plot that the city owns, to prepare the site for redevelopment with office space, hotel rooms, retail space, and residential units. My constituents inform me these federal funds would create seven new roads, comprising four distinct city blocks, to reconnect this new development with the rest of downtown and reconfigure 4th street to accommodate increased traffic from pedestrians and vehicles. My constituents also inform me these funds would install the necessary infrastructure to bring complete utilities service to the area. I am told that this new public infrastructure is critical for the identity of the City of Covington, would encourage economic development, and would have a positive and lasting impact in the community.

As our nation continues on a path of unsustainable debt, it is more important than ever that we in Congress, and you in the Administration, work to ensure every tax dollar is spent wisely. It is with this in mind that I draw your attention to the City of Covington's application, which I believe merits your full and fair review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/wc

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2023

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

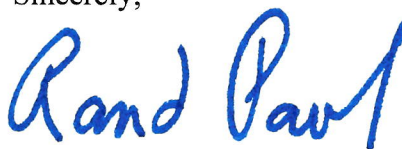
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am contacting you on behalf of the City of Covington, Kentucky, regarding their application for the fiscal year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation grants program through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The RAISE grant will assist the City of Covington in its effort to reintegrate the site of a former Internal Revenue Service (IRS) facility into the regional transportation system. Located in the city's urban core, I understand the planned project is intended to revitalize the area and will reconnect the street grid, modernize utility services, and enable other upgrades to public infrastructure in the vicinity of the project. Because reclaiming and repurposing the project site will improve traffic flows and vehicular access while enhancing safety for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists alike, this RAISE grant project will no doubt aid further economic development in the area and greatly benefit the residents of Covington. Accordingly, I believe the City of Covington's application deserves full and fair consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Upon the completion of this process, please contact my office at (202) 224-4343, or by facsimile at (202) 228-3796.

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, M.D.  
United States Senator



Tuesday, January 31, 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
Via email: [RAISEgrants@dot.gov](mailto:RAISEgrants@dot.gov)

Good afternoon,

The Wallace Woods Neighborhood Association has remained an active force, both politically and socially, for over 30 years. This is partly thanks to our close relationship with the City of Covington and our shared desire to promote safety, improve the quality of life of our neighbors and overall community, while always looking forward to a better tomorrow. This brings me to the amazing efforts that the City has been working on - the Covington Central Riverfront Development (CCR).

The former IRS site offers an amazing opportunity that will only come once in a lifetime. The plan, as we know it, is that CCR will reconnect Mutter Gottes, MainStrasse, Old Seminary Square, and Botany Hills. It will not only reconnect and bring back a large neighborhood, but will also open access to the river and provide coveted greenspace for families and tourists alike. CCR will support local businesses in surrounding neighborhoods and will bring more walkable bars and restaurants. These proposed outcomes clearly fall under the criteria for Mobility and Community Connectivity, Safety, and Quality of Life.

In conclusion, the Wallace Woods Neighborhood Association fully supports the City of Covington on their endeavor to gain federal grant funding from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program from the U.S. Department of Transportation for this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RPO", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan P. Christen Oliphant  
WWNA President  
(317) 289-1882