



# APPENDIX A

## Letters of Support



## United States Senate

September 14, 2023

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

**RE: City of Chicago – Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project – Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Chicago's Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant program offered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Funding from this program will enable Chicago remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community

The City of Chicago has identified North Lawndale, which sits at the center of Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty, as a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project endeavors to work with the community, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points, shortening crossing distances, installing bike, pedestrian facilities and more.

As a U.S. Senator and member of the Senate Committee of Commerce, Science and Transportation, I have made it a priority to support federal investments that equitably modernize our transportation and infrastructure systems. The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements project has the great potential to catalyze economic development, enhance community connectivity and improve the quality of life for many Chicago residents. I believe this project aligns with both my core goals as a legislator and those of the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grant program.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Chicago's application to the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grant program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge your full and fair consideration of this application. Should you have any questions, please contact my Director of Strategic Initiatives, Dan McManus, at (312) 886-3506.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

DANNY DAVIS  
7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2159 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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(202) 225-5641 (FAX)



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(773) 533-7520  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

RANKING MEMBER:  
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER:  
HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

September 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express support for the City of Chicago's application for **Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program** funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

I thank you for your careful review of this application and ask you to provide **Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods** funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress  
7<sup>th</sup> District, IL

DKD/cgo

**MONIQUE L. SCOTT**  
ALDERWOMAN, 24TH WARD

1158 S. KEELER AVE.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624  
PHONE: 773-533-2400  
FAX: 773-722-2400

E-MAIL: WARD24@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



**CITY OF CHICAGO**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

CITY HALL ROOM 200  
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
PHONE: 312-744-6839  
FAX: 312-744-6572

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EDUCATION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
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TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT  
ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT  
FINANCE  
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTIONS  
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY  
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 5, 2023

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

Monique L. Scott  
24th Ward Alderwoman



## COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL, ROOM 300  
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-3325

# MICHAEL D. RODRÍGUEZ

## ALDERPERSON - 22ND WARD

### PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE

2500 SOUTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60623  
TELEPHONE: (773) 762-1771  
FAX: (773) 762-1825  
WARD22@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

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IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE RIGHTS  
SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND RECREATION  
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY

September 7, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As Alderperson of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward I would like to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North and South Lawndale communities I represent. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is one of my priority areas in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Rodríguez  
Alderperson, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

**JENNIFER "SIS" KILLEN, P.E., PTOE**

SUPERINTENDENT

69 West Washington Street, 24th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1601

September 6, 2023

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

Re: Letter of support for the City of Chicago's Ogden Ave Corridor RCN Program application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

I thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

Jennifer "Sis" Killen, P.E., PTOE  
Superintendent

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

**TONI PRECKWINKLE**

PRESIDENT

**Cook County Board  
of Commissioners**

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17th District



September 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorval R. Carter, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.  
President, Chicago Transit Authority



September 6, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is pleased to support the City of Chicago's application to the Reconnecting Communities program for funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

As the comprehensive regional planning organization of northeastern Illinois, CMAP is committed to supporting initiatives that promote transportation safety, support economic mobility, and enhance equity. This project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points, shortening crossing distances, installing bike and pedestrian facilities, and more.

Reconfiguration of the Ogden Ave corridor was a key recommendation in the [North Lawndale Neighborhood Plan](#), created by the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago, and CMAP. The plan, which earned the 2019 American Planning Association-Illinois Chapter award for community outreach, includes extensive discussion of the importance of mobility and safety improvements on this corridor. This will not only benefit transportation in the neighborhood, but also support broader community and economic development goals as identified in this plan.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will reactivate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The

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#### Executive Director

Erin Aleman



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607  
cmap.illinois.gov | 312-454-0400

roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

Once again, CMAP supports the City of Chicago's Reconnecting Communities application for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale. The project will also support the Administration's Justice40 goals, enhance mobility and travel safety, and help foster economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Aleman'.

Erin Aleman  
Executive Director

KH:EA

September 7, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working on urban planning solutions in our region. Our organization was pleased to develop a local [Reconnecting Communities](#) report in partnership with many community leaders from the west side of Chicago to document the harms of highway infrastructure and identify project solutions for repairing communities. Improvements to the Ogden corridor were a need identified in our report.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

This application is a reflection of partnership between the nonprofit advocacy community, local stakeholders and the City of Chicago and consensus on an area of focus for future investment.

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Katherine M. Scherer  
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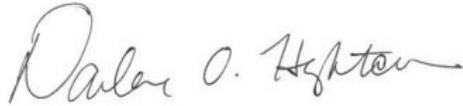
Theodore Weldon  
*Weldon Development Group*



# Metropolitan**Planning**Council

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,



Darlene Hightower, J.D.  
President & CEO



35 East Wacker Drive  
Suite 1782  
Chicago, IL 60601-2314

312.427.3325  
info@activetrans.org  
activetrans.org

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express Active Transportation Alliance's full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

As an organization that works to promote walking, biking, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities, this project aligns closely with Active Transportation Alliance's missions and values.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Rynell", written in a cursive style.

Amy Rynell, Executive Director



9/5/2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale. This project strongly aligns with CNT's mission, which is to deliver innovative analysis and solutions that support community-based organizations and local governments to create neighborhoods that are equitable, sustainable, and resilient.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Idemudia", written in a cursive style.

Nina Idemudia  
CEO, Center for Neighborhood Technology

September 22, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

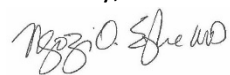
The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

Mount Sinai Hospital has been an anchor for North Lawndale for over 100 years, caring for our community through waves of both prosperity and tumult. For decades, it has been one of the largest employers in the neighborhood, while providing quality healthcare and hope to a highly underserved community. Today, under the Sinai Chicago umbrella, our system is inclusive of four hospitals, over 15 community clinics, a research institute, and a community institute, and remains a community cornerstone dedicated to serving the most vulnerable through healthcare, community service, research, and local economic development.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ngozi Ezike".

Dr. Ngozi Ezike  
President/CEO



September 10, 2023

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

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We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Regards,

Jesse A. Green  
Executive Director  
North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC)



September 25, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

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Ogden Avenue, also known as part of the Historical Route 66 runs 2.8 miles through the North Lawndale community. The North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) in collaboration with the North Lawndale Historical and Cultural Society wants to bring life to Ogden Avenue by linking this history to the other cities in the U.S. who also celebrate Route 66 as part of the American tourist routes across the country. We envision North Lawndale as a healthy, vibrant community with a diversified and innovative economy, competitive work force, engaged citizens and infrastructure that supports long term, sustainable growth.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

*Rochelle Jackson*

Rochelle R. Jackson  
Chair, NLCCC Transportation/Infrastructure Committee



LAWDALE CHRISTIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION  
LOVING GOD. LOVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

September 11, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

These improvements will help as we seek to bring commercial and residential development to North Lawndale with several high impact, transit oriented developments and need a smart redesign to aid in our efforts.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

By God's grace,

Richard Townsell  
Executive Director



# North Lawndale Employment Network

Creating a Community That Works

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*Sweet Beginnings, LLC  
and the beelove café*

**North Lawndale  
Employment Network**  
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1111 S. Homan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60624

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[nlen.org](http://nlen.org) | [beelovebuzz.com](http://beelovebuzz.com)

August 31, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express North Lawndale Employment Network's full support for the City of Chicago's application for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) is a place-based, non-profit workforce development organization whose mission is to increase the earnings potential of the North Lawndale community of Chicago through innovative employment initiatives that lead to economic advancement and an improved quality of life. NLEN directly addresses the interconnected problems of poverty, trauma, and



**North Lawndale Employment Network**  
*Creating a Community That Works*

unemployment in North Lawndale and the surrounding communities on the West Side of Chicago

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Palms".

Brenda Palms  
President and CEO  
North Lawndale Employment Network



September 18, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will remove barriers to connectivity that currently limit safe mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community. The project will work with the community and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to turn a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a safe multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, schools, hospitals, and parks in the North Lawndale community area. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community designated as Historically Disadvantaged and an Area of Persistent Poverty. North Lawndale and the broader west side of Chicago is where a vast majority of residents return from incarceration. Access to employment and other critical services for this community is critical to ensure Returning Residents have opportunities that reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Recidivism reduction makes our city healthier and safer. North Lawndale is a priority area for the City to reduce decades of disinvestment. The roadway reconfiguration proposed for Ogden Avenue will contribute to the overall goals of improving quality of life, increasing access to employment opportunities, and boosting economic development initiatives.

Safer Foundation is a 51 year old social impact agency focused on ensuring that people with arrest & conviction records become self sufficient and law abiding residents of our community. We provide a comprehensive set of evidence based workforce development services, behavioral health services and housing pre and post release from incarceration.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods funding for Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

Victor Dickson  
President & CEO

571 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60661-5701  
Phone: (312) 922-2200  
Fax: (312) 922-7039  
[www.saferfoundation.org](http://www.saferfoundation.org)

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CAROLE ROBERTSON CENTER  
for Learning

*Educating, enriching, and empowering children and families.*

September 19, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in the North Lawndale community.

The Carole Robertson Center for Learning is a long-standing early childhood and youth development community-based organization that reaches more than 2,500 children from birth to the age of 17. We have three flagship sites in Chicago, one of which is located on the Ogden Avenue Corridor. The Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project will significantly improve the safety and mobility for people of all ages and abilities in the North Lawndale community, including the young children and families that come through our doors every day.

Specifically, the project will engage community members and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to improve safety and walkability in the area by turning a wide corridor with excess vehicular capacity into a multi-modal corridor by reducing conflict points; shortening crossing distances; installing bike and pedestrian facilities; and more.

Ogden Avenue serves as a critical connector for residents to access transit and major commercial areas, including our community's schools, hospitals, and parks. The increased connectivity will re-activate the neighborhood core of a community that has historically faced disinvestment. North Lawndale is a community with a deep and rich history and many cultural assets. Its children, families, and residents deserve these improvements, which will positively impact residents' quality of life, increase access to employment opportunities, and boost economic development initiatives.

As an organization that stands by, for, and with families, we believe that safe and vibrant communities help children reach their full potential. We support this project, which will allow families and residents to thrive, and we urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the Ogden Avenue Corridor Improvements Project in North Lawndale.

Sincerely,

Bela Moté  
President and CEO

---

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1111 S. Western Ave., Suite B  
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312.243.7300

**Albany Park**  
5101 N. Kimball Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625  
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**Little Village**  
2929 W. 19th St.  
Chicago, IL 60623  
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**North Lawndale**  
3701 W. Ogden Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60623  
773.522.8400

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



3343 W Douglas Blvd, Chicago, IL 60623

September 11, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to express our full support for the City of Chicago's application for *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)* funding to complete the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

West Side communities, such as East and West Garfield Park, Austin, and portions of the Near West Side, have been historically disinvested. This disinvestment stems in large part from the creation of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in the 1950s, during which over 13,000 people and over 400 Chicago businesses were displaced. While recognizing that wrongs committed to those impacted almost a century ago cannot be righted, the City of Chicago hopes to set a new course by improving community safety, cohesion, and quality of life through enhanced connectivity over and around I-290.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan is part of Chicago's ongoing effort to bring the benefits of equitable transit-oriented development to disinvested and low-income neighborhoods while addressing the negative impacts of the legacy, car-centric built environment. As part of the planning study, the City will work hand-in-hand with affected community members to understand their needs, and to develop solutions that best fit the unique community context.

The West Side Communities Connectivity Plan will also explore what interventions would improve overall accessibility for West Side neighborhoods along the I-290 corridor. This would be accomplished through studying the existing public way access and connectivity challenges and developing proposed improvements using innovative approaches and complete streets principles.

Homan Grown L3C is committed to creating beautiful landscapes for our communities on the West Side and it is our hope that the Connectivity Plan will also bring beauty as well as connectivity to our transit corridors.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide *Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods* funding for the West Side Communities Connectivity Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

With much appreciation,

*Annamaria León*  
Annamaria León, Co-Owner  
Homan Grown L3C  
[Amjleon5@gmail.com](mailto:Amjleon5@gmail.com)  
414-339-5537

*Reshorna Fitzpatrick*  
Reshorna Fitzpatrick, Co-Owner  
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