

Letters of Support



THE BANKS INTERMODAL TRANSIT FACILITY

THE BANKS INTERMODAL TRANSIT FACILITY
BUILD GRANT SUBMISSION OF JULY 19, 2018

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive application submitted by The Banks Public Partnership (The Banks) for funding in the FY18 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant program.

I understand that The Banks seeks funding for its Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF) expansion project. The ITF is flood resilient hub for Cincinnati Central Business District commuters at the riverfront. The ITF allows commuters and patrons to switch modes of transportation with ease. In addition, the nearby Great American Ball Park, Paul Brown Stadium, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Smale Riverfront Park, and upcoming Music & Event Management, Inc. music venue create a public demand for the ITF each year.

Assistance from your agency would allow the ITF to expand and become the hub of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Transportation system. Upon completion, The Banks Intermodal Transit Facility would grow from 6,000 to 7,000 vehicle capacity and the private mixed-use development would be lifted above the flood plain and nearly doubling in size from 800 residents and 5,000 workers to 1,600 and 8,000 respectively.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Jason Knox, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN

OHIO

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FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

July 18, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation considers applications for the Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Program, I urge your consideration of the Banks Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF) Expansion application jointly submitted by the Banks Public Partnership and Hamilton County.

The Banks ITF is a hub for Cincinnati Central Business District commuters, allowing them to switch between five modes of transportation in a central location immediately adjacent to the Ohio River. Commuters can access extensive walking paths, bicycle rental stations, automobile parking, bus lines, and the streetcar and serves as a hub for regional transit access. This BUILD application will allow the Banks to extend the ITF to accommodate a larger capacity of commuters. It would build additional parking facilities and establish electric charging stations for commuters using the facility. With this expansion at the base of the Banks, private developers will be able to further expand this mixed use investment, leveraging the public investment in transit and intermodal transportation for future uses.

The Banks ITF is adjacent to the Great American Ball Park (Cincinnati Reds), the Paul Brown Stadium (Cincinnati Bengals), the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Smale Riverfront Park, and the upcoming Music and Vent Management, Inc: music venue that will have a 4,000-8,000 capacity at their indoor and outdoor spaces respectively. Additional capacity in the Banks ITF will allow the site to continue to grow and attract economic development in the area.

As you consider BUILD grant submissions, I ask that you give the Banks Intermodal Transit Facility application full and fair consideration. For additional questions, please contact Leah_Hill@brown.senate.gov in my office.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

July 16, 2018



The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Letter of Support - The Banks Intermodal Transit Facility Application for BUILD Funds

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, I would like to express our sincere support for The Banks Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF), and the associated USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) funding application submitted by The Banks Public Partnership team.

On three levels, The Banks ITF is likely one of the most unique and deserving projects applying for 2018 BUILD Grant funding:

- 1) Immediately adjacent the Ohio River, The Banks flood resilient ITF is a hub for Cincinnati Central Business District commuters to switch between five modes of transportation: automobile, pedestrian, bicycle, bus, and streetcar.
- 2) Besides turning commuters into public transit riders, the ITF lifts a new \$1B mixed use private development above the flood plain, therefore generating significantly more public transit demand via 1,000-2,000 residents, 2,000-3,000 office workers, and hundreds of thousands retail and entertainment patrons.
- 3) In addition, the immediately adjacent Great American Ball Park (Cincinnati Reds), Paul Brown Stadium (Cincinnati Bengals), National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Museum of Conscience), upcoming Music & Event Management, Inc. music venue (4,000 indoor capacity & 8,000 outdoor capacity), and the Smale Riverfront Park create a public draw of several million visitors to The Banks project every year.

This eligible ITF project exceeds each of the eight application criteria: 1) Safety, 2) State of Good Repair, 3) Economic Competitiveness, 4) Environmental Protection, 5) Quality of Life, 6) Innovation, 7) Partnership, 8) Non-Federal Revenue for Transportation Infrastructure Investment. The Banks ITF application is requesting \$23 million towards the \$53 million expansion project - therefore, the federal share is 43% (almost half of the 80% maximum), and the ITF is already designed, so this project truly is shovel ready.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this very important regional project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Policinski". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark R. Policinski
CEO

T.C. Rogers *President* | **Mark R. Policinski** *CEO/Executive Director*

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July 12, 2018

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

Re: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant for the Banks Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF)

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Hamilton County Engineer's Office (HCEO) clearly recognizes the critical relationship between sustainable economic development and multimodal transportation infrastructure. This understanding has been a motivating force of the Banks Public Partnership Team to advance the ITF.

The completion of a new ITF will constitute a significant step forward in the effort to provide improved intermodal connectivity between five modes of transportation that include automobile, pedestrian, bicycle, bus and streetcar in the Banks area of downtown Cincinnati along the Ohio River. This improved connectivity will help support and sustain \$1 billion in new mixed use private development and the travel demand associated with 1,000 to 2,000 residents, 2,000 to 3,000 office workers and hundreds of thousands of retail and entertainment patrons. It will further help accommodate access to the immediately adjacent Great American Ball Park, Paul Brown Stadium and National Underground Freedom center as well as other Banks area venues that draw several million visitors to the area each year.

It is respectfully requested that this candidate project be considered to receive the requested BUILD funding. Your thoughtful consideration is most deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



THEODORE B. HUBBARD, P.E.-P.S.
HAMILTON COUNTY ENGINEER

TBH/th

Cc: Ham. Co. BOCC Board, Co. Administrator Jeff Aluotto, Office File