

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am a Cleveland resident and bicycle shop owner.

I am writing to oppose this specific language included in HB23:

“Compels ODOT to establish for the uniform application of the construction of bicycle lanes. Prohibits a bicycle lane in the middle of a street or highway in a municipality with a population over 300,000.”

This language would prevent the construction of the Cleveland Midway Cycle Track Plan, a project that has been developed over the last twelve years with intensive community engagement.

The project has been awarded \$19.6 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, \$8.3 million in 2018 and an additional \$11.3 million in 2022.

Per NOACA, any project that receives CMAQ funding and is canceled will lose 10 points on future applications. This would all but certainly prevent Cleveland from receiving this important federal funding in the future.

Thus, not only would this language prevent a project the community wants, hundreds of well-paying union construction jobs, and \$25 million in investment in Cleveland’s infrastructure, it would likely make the city uncompetitive for future CMAQ federal funds. This is unacceptable and should be removed from the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.