

RE: West 25th Street – MetroHealth Line Bus Rapid Transit

Dear Mayor Bibb and CEO Birdsong,

Your respective organisations are leading an effort to implement the MetroHealth Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and related streetscape changes along West 25th Street.

A cross-section of Ohio City Market District stakeholders including property owners and business operators, including the various signatories to this letter, have shared multiple letters and plan proposals with you over the last 12-18 months in a collective effort to productively engaging with you regarding this project. Our efforts have focused on delivering a project design that benefits all parties and is additive to the neighborhood. Such prior correspondence from Ohio City Stakeholders is attached.

To date we have received NO direct response from RTA regarding our suggestions or concerns.

We have also attached the RTA proposal showing three different options as to pathways forward on the BRT plan. The community stakeholders understand these options were initially considered by RTA before consulting any stakeholders having a vested interest in the neighborhood.

The Ohio City stakeholders remain very concerned that the transit and streetscape changes to West 25th between Monroe and Vestry Avenues will destroy West 25th Street's character as one of the city's great main streets, just as hundreds of millions of dollars of investments are being made by the undersigned in the neighborhood. These concerns are only exacerbated by the initial design flaws and missteps which riddled RTA's prior BRT project along Euclid Ave. Fortunately, prior to implementation of that project, the city of Cleveland led a dialogue between stakeholders and RTA in some of the most economically active neighborhoods along Euclid which resulted in a final design plan that worked for those neighborhoods.

Inexplicably this has not happened along West 25th.

Now that we understand that this change is in its 11th hour without similar dialogue, we are forced to be more direct. Our question is whether RTA and the City of Cleveland have any intent to address the concerns of the vested stakeholders in the neighborhood by considering version #2 (i.e., "No Dedicated Bus Lanes + Parking 2 Sides") of the proposals which RTA initially considered. This version would alleviate many of the concerns we are raising, retain West 25th as a "Main Street" and allow the BRT to function well.

We would appreciate a response prior to 1/19/25 so we know if we need to pursue other options to ensure our concerns heard, addressed, and factored into the plan RTA seems to be plowing ahead with.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

The Business & Property Owners of Ohio City

Jori Maron, Principal
MRN Family of Companies

Michael Dostal, Board Chair
Ohio City Improvement Corporation

Sam McNulty
Market Garden Brewery

Dan and Pat Conway
Great Lakes Brewing Co.

Don Whitaker
West Side Market Tenants Association Board

Doug Perkowski
CLV Lofts

Mike & Pete Mitchell
Mitchell's Ice Cream

Chad Kertesz
My Place Group

Elizabeth Marengo
Market Avenue Wine Bar

Chris Smythe
West 25th Street Lofts

Matt Moore
Soupermarket

Mike D'Amico
Allstate Hairstyling & Barber College

Cara Coleman-Schutte
Worts and Wards

Jerika Jordan
Worts and Wards

Jon Pinney
TurnDev / Kohrman Jackson Krantz Attorneys at Law

Pete Snavely JR
The Quarter

Koula & George Lazar
Something Different Gallery

Randy & Linda Kelley & Alan Glazen
ABC the Tavern

Jennine Malone
Retail Boutiques at 2138 West 25th Street

Mike Kaplan
Glass Bubble Project

Mike D'Amico
All State Barber College

Morgan Yagi
Bartleby Supper Club

Tom Gillespie
8 Historic Properties on West 25th & adjacent blocks

Alex Gleason
The Old Angle Tavern