



CITY OF CLEVELAND

Mayor Justin M. Bibb

January 21, 2026

Dear Ohio City Market District Stakeholders,

Thank you for your letter dated January 14, 2026, and for your continued engagement regarding the MetroHealth Line Bus Rapid Transit (“West 25th BRT”) project and associated streetscape improvements along West 25th Street.

The West 25th BRT is a \$50 million capital investment in the corridor that will replace deteriorated roadway pavement, repair defective sidewalks and pavers, add landscaping and trees, improve pedestrian safety, and deliver transit service enhancements on one of GCRTA’s busiest routes. The project also enables the reclamation of roadway space between Franklin Boulevard and Detroit Avenue for Irishtown Bend Park and a regional trail connection, nearly \$4 million in park and public-realm improvements that are directly tied to the project’s current scope and funding structure and that will make a significant impact in Ohio City.

I recognize and appreciate the significant financial and personal investment that many of you have made as property owners and business operators in Ohio City. West 25th Street is one of Cleveland’s most important main streets, and preserving its vitality while improving safety, access, and mobility is a shared priority.

With respect to process, GCRTA conducted three open houses and four stakeholder meetings related to this project, in addition to multiple one-on-one conversations with Market District businesses. Most recently, the City participated in meetings with stakeholders on August 13th, 2025; October 7th, 2025; October 27th, 2025; and on January 7, 2026; with the last two meetings organized specifically with Ohio City Market District stakeholders. Through those discussions, we have sought to clarify both project goals, stakeholder concerns, and institutional roles. GCRTA provided a letter to the City of Cleveland, dated January 20, 2026 and attached hereto, with two follow-up matrixes to address comments and concerns received at the January 7th meeting.

GCRTA is the lead agency and decision-maker for the BRT project and the recipient of federal funding, and it is therefore responsible for ensuring that the project complies with federal design, scope, and implementation requirements. At this stage of the project, after years of design, environmental review, and funding awards, GCRTA has communicated that altering the scope between the curb lines to remove the proposed bus-bike lane in the Market District would place the overall project at risk. This includes





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jeopardizing funding for the entire corridor and associated Irishtown Bend Park enhancements.

We have heard and take seriously the concerns you have raised regarding parking, loading and access, signage, safety, neighborhood character, economic impacts, and your preference for an alternative design. While the City supports the West 25th BRT because we believe it will, on balance, improve transit reliability, pedestrian safety, and overall quality of life, we are equally committed to addressing potential unintended consequences and ensuring that the Ohio City Market District remains a thriving commercial destination.

To that end, the City is committed to pursuing solutions beyond the BRT roadway cross-section to respond to business and visitor needs. These efforts include:

- Investing in designated short-term pick-up and drop-off zones and ADA-accessible spaces on adjacent blocks;
- Funding and facilitating a district-wide transportation and parking strategy, including clearly designated parking locations and improved wayfinding signage;
- Conducting a post-project traffic and safety evaluation to identify additional mitigation opportunities; and
- Exploring additional business support resources during the construction period.

The City remains committed to continued dialogue and to incorporating stakeholder feedback into the broader future of the West 25th Street corridor. Our goal is to support GCRTA's delivery of a successful transit project while strengthening the Market District and supporting the long-term success of Ohio City.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. McNair
Chief of Integrated Development

