

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects
Division of Real Estate

Reconnecting Cleveland I-90 (E. 22 Street to MLK Jr. Drive)

Ordinance No: 213-2023

Legislative Purpose: This Department requests legislation to authorize the Director of the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects to apply and accept grant assistance for a feasibility study for the I-90 corridor between E. 22 Street and MLK Jr. Drive; to enter into one or more Professional Service contracts; to enter into agreements with private utilities and to accept funds; to enter into agreements and to accept funds from NEORS, ODOT, Railroads and GCRTA; to authorize the Division of Purchasing and Supplies to acquire, accept, and record all land necessary in making of the public improvement, including but not limited to gift, fee simple acquisitions, temporary easements, permanent easements, and work agreements; to add any and all funds as authorized by Director of Finance.

Description: In October 2022, the City applied for a planning grant through the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCPP) to address connectivity barriers posed by Interstate 90 through Downtown Cleveland and by reconnecting the Central, Midtown and St. Clair Superior neighborhoods with Downtown and Lake Erie. The planning study will perform a review of multiple planning efforts that have analyzed multi-modal traffic patterns, land use adjacent to I-90, and recommended interventions; identify the locations where interventions to mitigate the impact of I-90 on adjacent communities, such as freeway caps, will have the highest impact; and assess the feasibility of freeway caps or related interventions at the proposed locations.

The primary study area will be I-90 between E. 22nd Street through Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

The planning study builds upon two major infrastructure initiatives. The first is ODOT's Innerbelt Project which will rehabilitate I-90, its bridges, and ramps from E. 9th Street to E. 49th Street. The second is the Port of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metroparks' Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study (CHEERS) to enhance Cleveland's eastern lakefront with new and accessible beach areas, new and enhanced park space, expanded waterfront access, and trail connections. Reconnecting Cleveland I-90 would maximize connectivity, safety and economic benefits of these two major regional infrastructure priorities for Clevelanders.

Award announcements are anticipated in Q1 of 2023 and funding will be awarded and administered through the United States Department of Transportation.

The project will be paid for with USDOT grant funds, bond funds, and gifts or grants accepted from various public or private entities and any other funds approved by the Director of Finance.

Project Cost Estimate:	\$2,000,000
Funding Sources:	USDOT Reconnecting Communities Grant (pending \$1,600,000); local match (pending \$400,000)
Project Schedule:	Planning Phase: Jan – Dec 2024 Preliminary Engineering: Jan – September 2025
Wards:	Ward 10 (Councilperson Hairston) Ward 3 (Councilperson McCormack) Ward 7 (Councilperson Howse) Ward 5 (Councilperson Starr)
Attachments:	Location Map Budget Narrative Letter of Financial Commitment

Budget Narrative

FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Planning Grant Request

Project
Reconnecting Cleveland I-90

Project Budget Breakdown

The total budget for Reconnecting Cleveland I-90 is \$2,000,000, as detailed in Table 1. The project includes two phases: (1) the Community Engagement and Planning Phase and (2) the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Review Phase. Table 1 details total cost per phase. The City of Cleveland is committed to providing the 20% local match requirement for the eligible activities of the Planning Grant as documented in the attached form *RCPPI Letter of Financial Commitment*. The City of Cleveland will use the planning grant funding, including 20% local match, to hire a consultant to conduct the planning study on behalf of the city. The consultant procurement will be done following the City’s standard procedures for professional services and applicable USDOT procedures.

Table 1 – Project Budget Breakdown

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program - Cleveland Use of Funds	Cost	% of Cost	RCP Grant	Other Federal	20% Local Match
Community Engagement and Planning Phase	\$ 600,000	30%	\$ 480,000	0	\$ 120,000
Review Existing Conditions/Plans Public Outreach Stakeholder/Public Outreach Conceptual Design Refine Concepts Engage Stakeholders Public Involvement Identify Priority Connections					
Preliminary Engineering Environmental Review	\$ 1,400,000	70%	\$ 1,120,000	0	\$ 280,000
Preliminary Engineering Environmental Stakeholder Engagement Benefit-Cost-Analyses RCP Capital Grant Application					
Totals	\$ 2,000,000	100%	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000

Outlined in Table 2, the phase one planning phase includes a review of existing and ongoing planning efforts, extensive public outreach, stakeholder engagement and conceptual development. The phase one deliverables are a few concepts that either increase multi-modal connections across the facility or mitigate the negative impact of I-90 on adjacent communities. Phase one activities will begin at the beginning of 2024 after finalizing contract details and will conclude at the beginning of 2025. Interventions that mitigate the negative impact of I-90 could address noise pollution, poor air quality, and/or high speeds on exit ramps or adjacent streets. The project team would advance the concepts for preliminary engineering in phase two. Phase two will take nine months to complete. In addition to preliminary engineering, phase two includes environmental review and development of benefit-cost analyses of interventions along the facility to aid in preparation of an RCPPI Capital Grant Application in 2026.

Location Map

FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
Reconnecting Cleveland I-90 Project Area

