

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects

Reconnecting Cleveland I-90 (Superior Avenue to MLK Jr. Drive)

Ordinance No. 1187-2023

Purpose: This Department requests legislation to authorize the Director of the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects to apply, accept and expend grant assistance for a planning and preliminary engineering study for the I-90 corridor between Superior Avenue and MLK Jr. Drive; to enter into one or more Professional Services contracts; to enter into agreements with private utilities and to accept funds; 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 September 2023, the City applied for a planning grant through the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program to address connectivity barriers posed by Interstate 90 through Downtown Cleveland and to the shore of Lake Erie. The planning and preliminary engineering 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 to mitigate the impact of I-90 on adjacent communities, such as freeway caps, having the highest impact; and assess the feasibility of these interventions at several locations.

The primary study area will be the alignment of I-90 from Superior Avenue to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. This study builds upon several major infrastructure initiatives including ODOT's Innerbelt Project, Port of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metroparks' Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study (CHEERS), the 2015 Lakefront Greenway and Downtown Connector Study, and lakefront access and activation projects of the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA). Reconnecting Cleveland I-90 would maximize connectivity, safety, and economic benefits of the anticipated regional infrastructure investments for Clevelanders.

Award announcements are anticipated in Q1 of 2024 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: \$2,000,000

Funding Sources: USDOT Reconnecting Communities Grant (pending \$1,600,000);
Local match (pending \$400,000 from future bond sales)

Schedule: Planning Phase: March 2024 – June 2025
Preliminary Engineering: July 2025 – September 2026

Wards: Ward 3 (Council Member McCormack)
Ward 5 (Council Member Starr)
Ward 7 (Council Member Howse)
Ward 10 (Council Member Hairston)

Attachments: Location Map
Budget Narrative
Letter of Financial Commitment