

Metro Parks



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Park Commissioners:

Aryeh Alex
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Director:

Tim Moloney

Your Metro Parks:

Battelle Darby Creek
Blacklick Woods and
Golf Courses
Blendon Woods
Chestnut Ridge
Clear Creek
Glacier Ridge
Heritage Park
and Trail
Highbanks
Homestead
Inniswood Metro
Gardens
Pickerington Ponds
Prairie Oaks
Quarry Trails
Rocky Fork
Scioto Audubon
Scioto Grove
Sharon Woods
Slate Run Farm
and Park
Three Creeks
Walnut Woods

January 26, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: **Support for the Williams Road Multimodal Corridor Planning RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks ("Metro Parks") would like to express its enthusiastic support for the joint City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) RAISE planning grant application for the Williams Road Multimodal Corridor Planning project. This project is requesting a RAISE planning grant to develop a consistent corridor concept plan for the entire 6.5- mile Williams Road corridor, from the road's western terminus at the new Great Southern Metro Park, to its eastern terminus at State Route 317 (Hamilton Road). This project was designated a Project of Merit during the FY 2022 RAISE Round.

Metro Parks is a regional park district with 20 park sites that encompass over 28,000 acres with 12 million visitors a year. The William Road Project will connect the newest park site, Great Southern Metro Park, to residents in a neighborhood in need and to established parks in our system. The park district is planning to expend over \$10 million public dollars in the next three years to expand open space needs and develop a section of the Scioto Greenway Trail linking Williams Road project to downtown Columbus. As with the Williams Road Project, this park development project also includes several public and private partners, including AEP, the State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and City of Columbus, and private developers.

A RAISE planning grant is necessary to help create a unified concept for this very complicated corridor that is in such great need of safety, mobility, congestion, and capacity improvements. The project's potential impact was recognized during the FY 2022 RAISE Round, when the U.S. Department of Transportation recognized it as a Project of Merit. We respectfully request that you consider the challenges of the corridor, the need to create more transportation opportunities within it, and the potential this project has to positively impact our community. We urge your renewed consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

Tim Moloney
Executive Director

