

City of Cincinnati



801 Plum Street, Suite 348
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Phone: (513) 352-3466
Email: meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov
Web: www.cincinnati-oh.gov

202301277

Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

April 25, 2023

MOTION

WE MOVE for the City Administration to submit an application to the Federal Highway Administration and / or Ohio Department of Transportation to have the City of Cincinnati formalized as a participating agency.



Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati has long been involved in the reconstruction of the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor (BSBC) project, which runs through the urban heart of Cincinnati. Through the project development from 2005 to present, City staff has engaged with the Ohio Department of Transportation and provided feedback and guidance as to how the project impacts the local transportation network and residents' quality-of-life.

Federal Highway Administration regulations require that any Federal, state, tribal, regional, and local government agencies that may have an interest in a project must be invited to serve as participating agencies (*see* Attachment A (Letter from ODOT) and Attachment B (23 U.S.C. 139(d)(2))). The intent of a participating agency's role is to enhance interagency coordination, ensure that issues of concern are identified early, and encourage governmental agencies at any level with an interest in the proposed project to be active participants in the NEPA process.

Tammy K. Campbell, ODOT District 8 Deputy Director, took the important step to invite the City of Cincinnati to participate beyond the role of a traditional participating agency. We appreciate this new, innovative way to include local government stakeholders at the table.

However as one of Ohio's most populated metro areas, the City of Cincinnati has a major interest in the development in the BSBC project. Therefore, we believe it to be in the best interest for the City to formalize its role in the project as a participating agency. Taking this step expresses the City's commitment building the best bridge possible, and the promises we have made as a Council to our residents.