



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Climate, Environment & Infrastructure

Councilmember Meeka Owens, Chairperson
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Jeff Cramerding, Member
Councilmember Seth Walsh, Member

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

10:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

PRESENTATIONS

Groundwork Ohio River Valley - Youth Environmental Council
Jaeydah Edwards – Senior Program Director
Luis Aguilar – Community Enrichment Manager
Members of the Youth Environmental Council

Passenger Rail in Ohio – All Aboard Ohio
Mitch Radakovich – State Chair of All Aboard Ohio

AGENDA

- [202401067](#) PRESENTATION, dated April 5, 2024, submitted by Councilmember Owens, from Jaeydah Edwards, Senior Program Director; Luis Aguilar, Community Enrichment Manager, Youth Environmental Council, regarding Groundwork Ohio River Valley
Sponsors: Owens
Attachments: [Presentation](#)
- [202401071](#) PRESENTATION, dated April 5, 2024, submitted by Councilmember Owens, from Mitch Radakovich, State Chair of All Aboard Ohio, regarding Passenger Rail in Ohio
Sponsors: Owens
Attachments: [Presentation](#)
- [202400983](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Owens, **WE MOVE** that the administration prepare a report within sixty (60) days on how Report #202400403 entitled Supplemental Report on the Department of Building and Inspections Code Enforcement Process and Chronic Offenders and the correlation between rental and utility assistance dollars that are granted to the residents of those properties from Jan. 1, 2020, to December 6th, 2023. (BALANCE ON FILE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE) (STATEMENT ATTACHED)
Sponsors: Owens
Attachments: [Motion](#)

4. [202401016](#) **REPORT**, dated 4/3/2024, submitted Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, regarding Hillside Overlay District issue spotting. (Ref. Doc. #202301262)
- Sponsors:** City Manager
- Attachments:** [Report](#)

ADJOURNMENT

TRAIL WORK
COMMUNITY WORK
GROUND WORK ORV
JUSTICE WORK
YOUTH WORK

Climate, Environment, and
Infrastructure Committee
Meeting

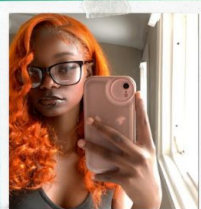
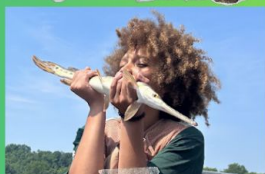
April 9th, 2024

Youth Environmental
Council

Youth Environmental Council



GROUNDWORK TRC



GROUNDWORK TRC



GROUNDWORK TRC



GROUNDWORK TRC



About Us...



Youth Environmental Council

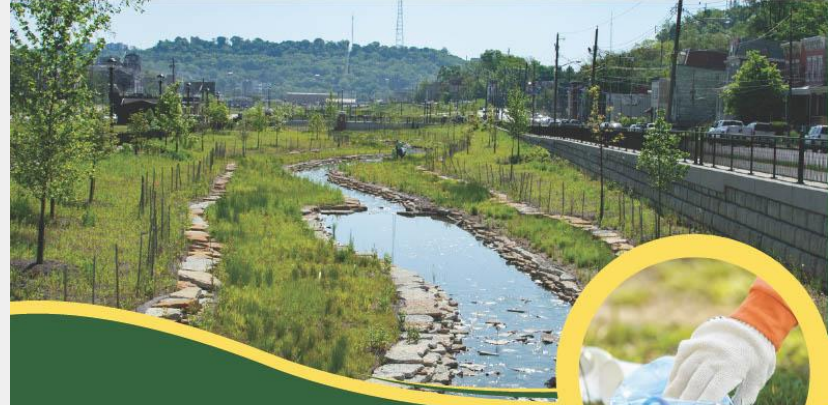
Our Mission

We, the Youth Environmental Council, are Cincinnati high school students focused on positive environmental change. The mission of the Youth Environmental Council is to bridge the gap between people, ideas, and action so that all people, regardless of identity, may feel hopeful for our shared future. As the youth generation, it is inevitable we will carry the burden of the climate crisis. We will help by creating action plans, educating our communities, and working together to a greener future. It is our mission to voice concerns and act against climate related issues that our communities face through advocating for sustainable initiatives by collaborating with our city's community members and elected officials.



Our Project: October 2023

In October, the Youth Environmental Council planned a community trash cleanup event in the neighborhoods of Lower Price Hill and South Fairmount. By partnering with residents from these two communities, the youth wanted to teach residents about the importance of recycling and making sure we don't litter.



TRASH PICK UP

Join Groundwork to keep Lower Price Hill and South Fairmount beautiful. Prizes for those who pick up the most trash.



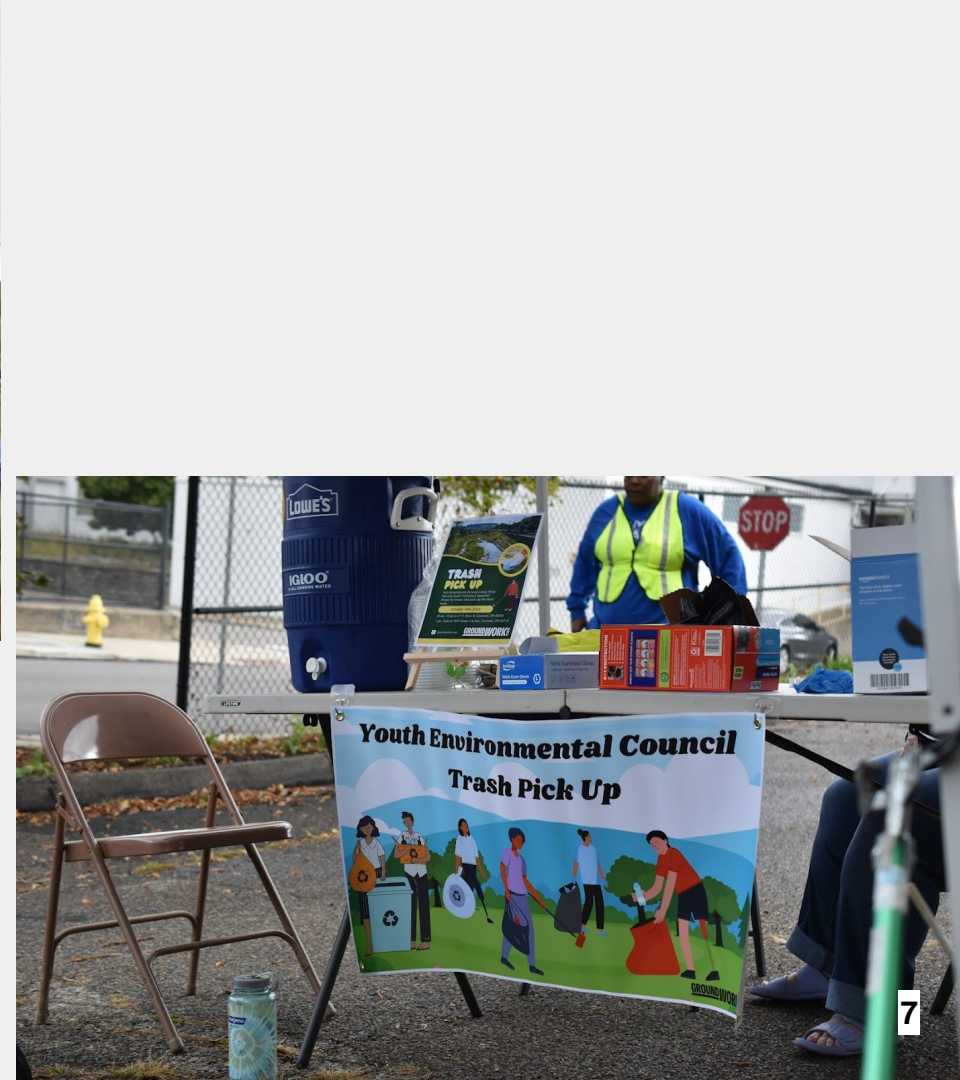
October 14th, 2023

10 am - 12 pm at 2111 Storrs St, Cincinnati, OH 45204

1 pm - 3 pm at 1645 Queen City Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45214

 groundworkorv.org

GROUNDWORK ORV



Our Project: March 2024

Last month, the Youth Environmental Council planned a community gardening event. They wanted to teach community members about the benefits of gardening and how to start their own gardens. Community members were invited to help build garden beds, plant seeds, and enhance the trail at Lower Price Hill's Burn's Lot. As a thank you, each participant was given a seed bomb made of native seeds to take home.

BURN'S LOT COMMUNITY EVENT

WHERE?
2111 STOORS ST.

WHEN?
SATURDAY,
MARCH 16, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*LIGHT SNACKS WILL BE
PROVIDED*



SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO RSVP!

DO YOU NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS?
DO YOU JUST ENJOY GARDENING?

JOIN US IN OUR EVENT OPEN TO
ANY AND EVERYONE!

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT
GARDENING?
WE WILL HOST AN INFO SESSION
FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS BEFORE
STARTING!



HOSTED BY:

GROUNDWORK
ORV

HELP US ESTABLISH A
COMMUNITY GARDEN!

Contact laguilar@groundworkorv.org with any questions!



This year's work

- Avondale Green Cincinnati Plan Workshop
- Volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries
- Air Quality programming with Lower Price Hill & South Fairmount residents
- 2023 Climate Candidate Forum
- Community Project: Trash Clean Up
- GCP info session with OES
- Bond Hill Community Council Presentation
- Green Schoolyards Action Network Meeting
- Community Project: Gardening
- THANK YOU - City of Cincinnati's Urban Agriculture Grant
- La Soupe Cooking Class
- The Nature Conservancy Storytelling Workshop
- Identifying & implementing a project based on the Green Cincinnati Plan
- Freestore Foodbank volunteering
- Upcycled art projects with supplies from the Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub
- Policy Associates time with The Nature Conservancy

Connecting to the Green Cincinnati Plan

The Youth Environmental Council came up with the idea of expanding their composting initiative to local schools. This idea came from learning about the Green Cincinnati Plan's Zero Waste Goal.

Five Cincinnati High Schools with environmental programs will receive:

- Materials to create a DIY compost bin
- An informational video and instructions on how to assemble the bin
- Resources on how to use and maintain the bin

Coming April 2024



Ever wonder why it's so hot here?

- Low tree cover in certain neighborhoods
- Urban heat island effect
- Climate Change
 - Youth and elderly are most vulnerable
- Not enough green spaces to cool neighborhoods

What can be done to combat this?



Trees & Green Space closer to those who need it most

Action Steps:

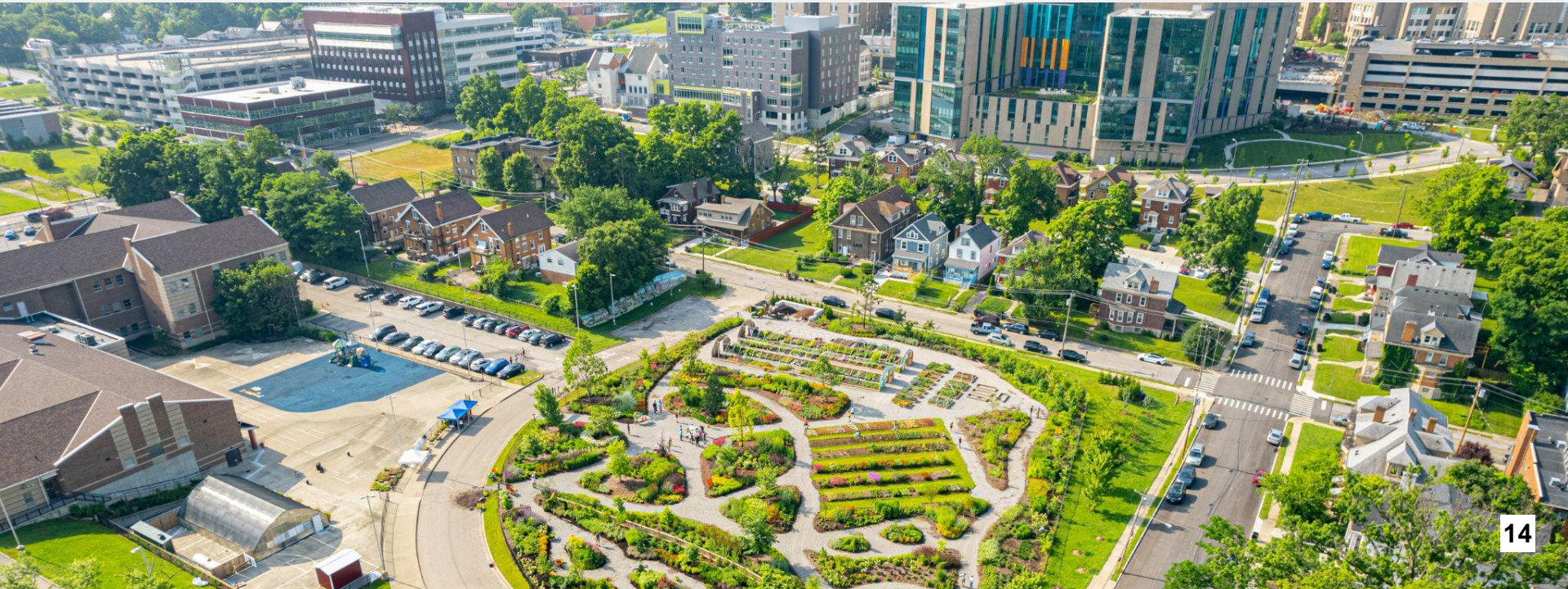
1. Connecting green interventions to the Climate Safe Neighborhoods' Plans
2. Prioritizing schools and vulnerable communities
3. Empowering city youth through the Green Team program with Groundwork and Parks



The Power of Green Space

“In a world that grows more and more chaotic and schismatic every day, green spaces provide a sense of connectedness and peace to our communities.” – Sophie Glenn

The Zoo's Rockdale Urban Garden and Green Team worksite



Requests!

- **Youth Representation on the EAB**
 - Position Appointment or YEC Advisory Role/Commentary
- **Attend Groundwork and Cincinnati Park's End of Summer Celebration**
 - July 25, 2024
- **Continued Support for GCP, Green School Yards and Climate Safe Neighborhoods projects that involve youth!**
 - Seeds of Change Grants - Thank you!
 - Avondale tree planting

THANK YOU!



Passenger Rail in Ohio

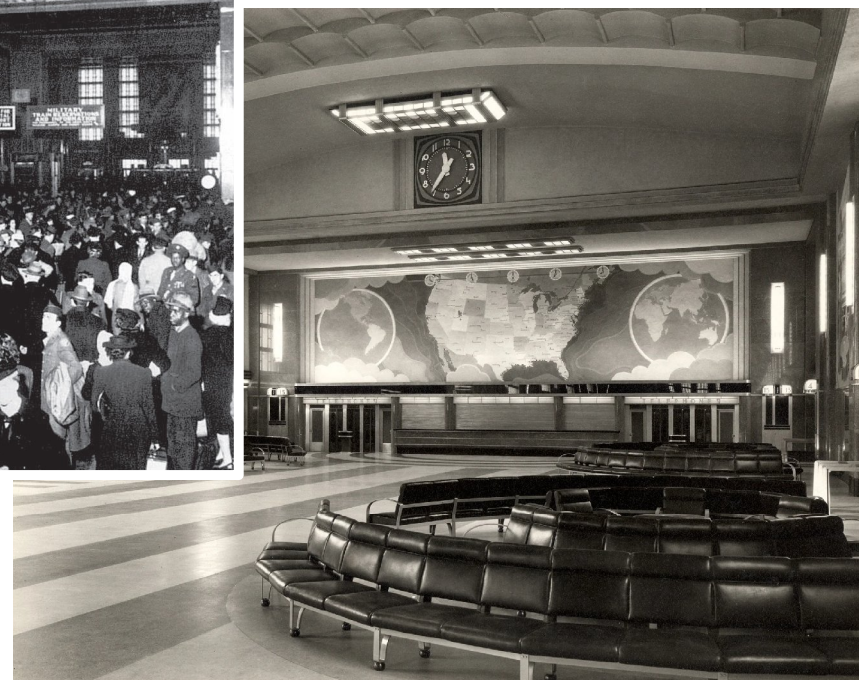
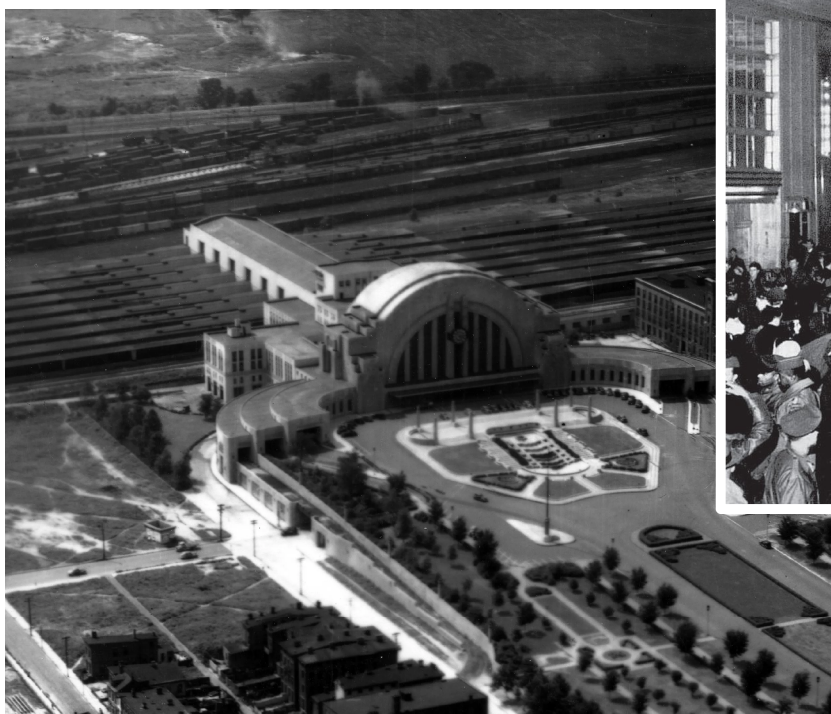
Cincinnati City Council - Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Mitch Radakovich
Chair, All Aboard Ohio
April 9th 2024



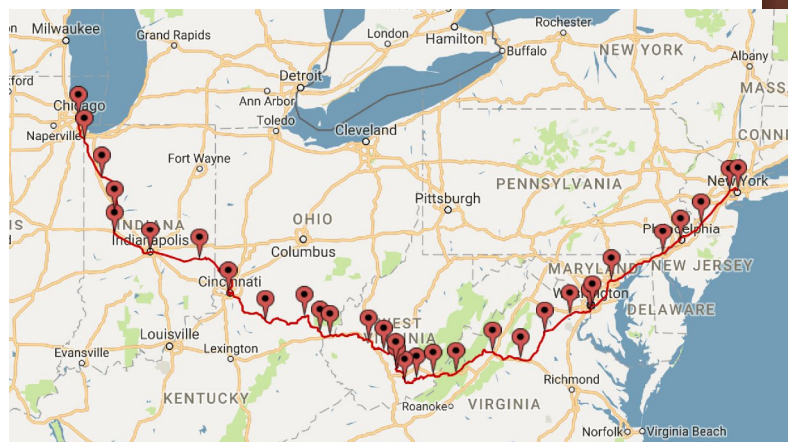


A Reminder of the Past



Rail in Cincinnati - Today

- Cardinal Service – 3x Weekly
 - New York City – DC – Cincinnati – Indianapolis – Chicago
- To Chicago: 1:31am – Th/Sat/Mon
- To NYC: 3:27am – Wed/Fri/Sun





Rail in Cincinnati – Current State

Did You Know...

- 20% of the city of Cincinnati do not have access to a vehicle?
- April 9th, 2024 there are two ways to get to Chicago without a plane or car:

Greyhound

5:00 pm — 6:40 hrs — 10:40 pm

Cincinnati Bus Station — Chicago Train Station

\$105.⁹⁹

FASTEST TRIP

Continue >

Bus Direct v

Wi-Fi, Power, USB, Almost full

Departure Thursday, April 11

CIN → CHI

51 Cardinal	DEPARTS 1:41 _a	9h 19m	ARRIVES 10:00 _a	Coach from \$81
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Trip Details v



Rail in Cincinnati – Current State

→ One way ▾ 1 ▾ Economy ▾

○ Cincinnati ↔ Chicago Tue, Apr 9

⚙ All filters Stops ▾ Airlines ▾ Bags ▾ Price ▾ Times ▾ Emissions ▾ Connecting airports ▾ Duration ▾

📈 Track prices ⓘ Apr 9 Any dates 📅 Date grid 📊 Price graph

Best flights

Ranked based on price and convenience ⓘ Prices include required taxes + fees for 1 adult. Optional charges and [bag fees](#) may apply. [Passenger assistance](#) info. Sort by: ⬆️

	6:23 PM – 10:24 PM American	5 hr 1 min CVG-ORD	1 stop 56 min PHL	231 kg CO2e +129% emissions ⓘ	\$296 ▾
	8:14 PM – 11:52 PM Delta	4 hr 38 min CVG-ORD	1 stop 1 hr ATL	202 kg CO2e +100% emissions ⓘ	\$296 ▾
	7:01 PM – 7:24 PM American · Operated by Envoy Air as American Ea...	1 hr 23 min CVG-ORD	Nonstop	88 kg CO2e -13% emissions ⓘ	\$419 ▾



Rail in Cincinnati – Current State

Did You Know...

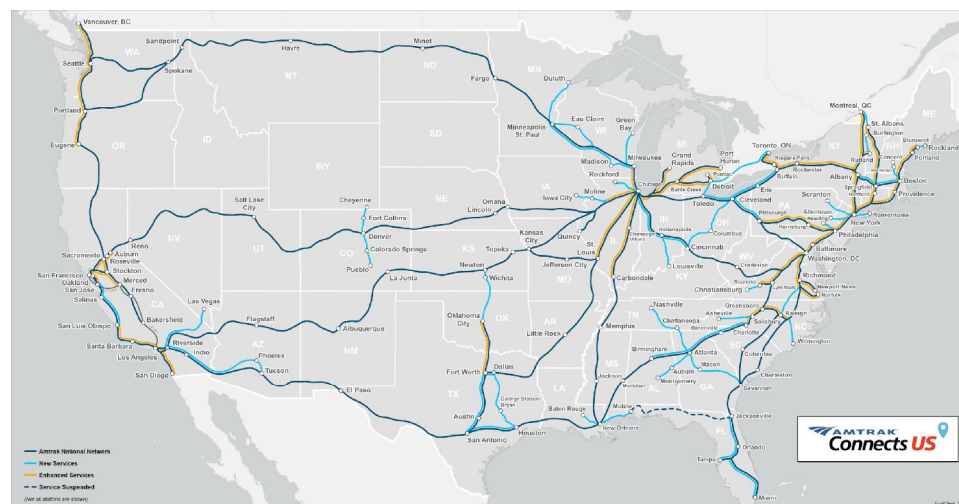
- It is impossible to purchase an Amtrak ticket in Cincinnati without the internet?
- No public transit connectivity available when the Train arrives

A Vision for the Future



Federal Funding

- 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act
 - \$80 Billion to Passenger Rail
- Corridor ID Program
 - State sponsored, shorter routes (3C+D)
- Long Distance Rail Study
 - Long, interstate routes (Cardinal)



Corridor ID Routes



4 Corridors Studied

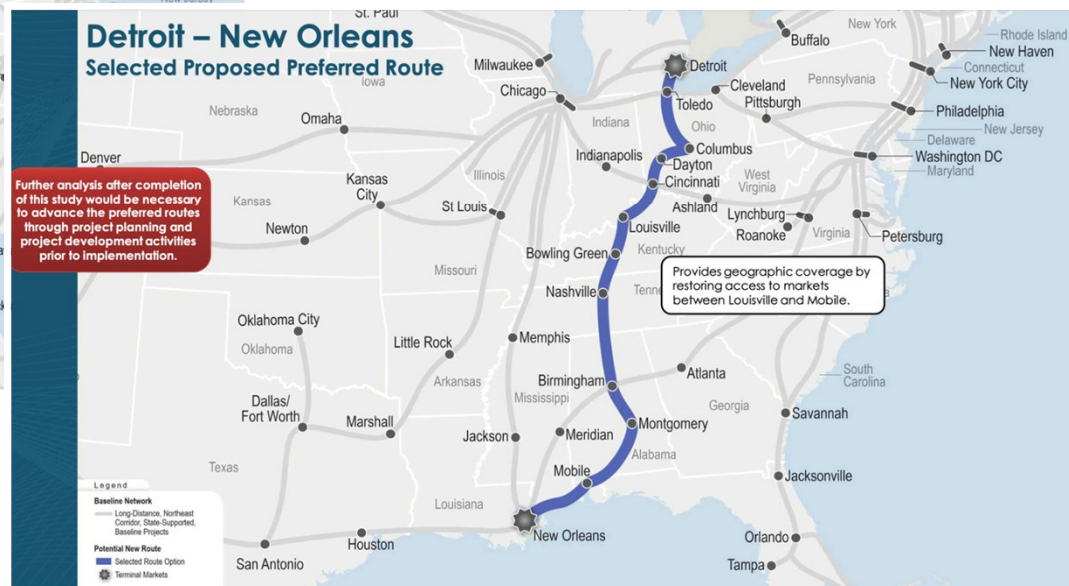
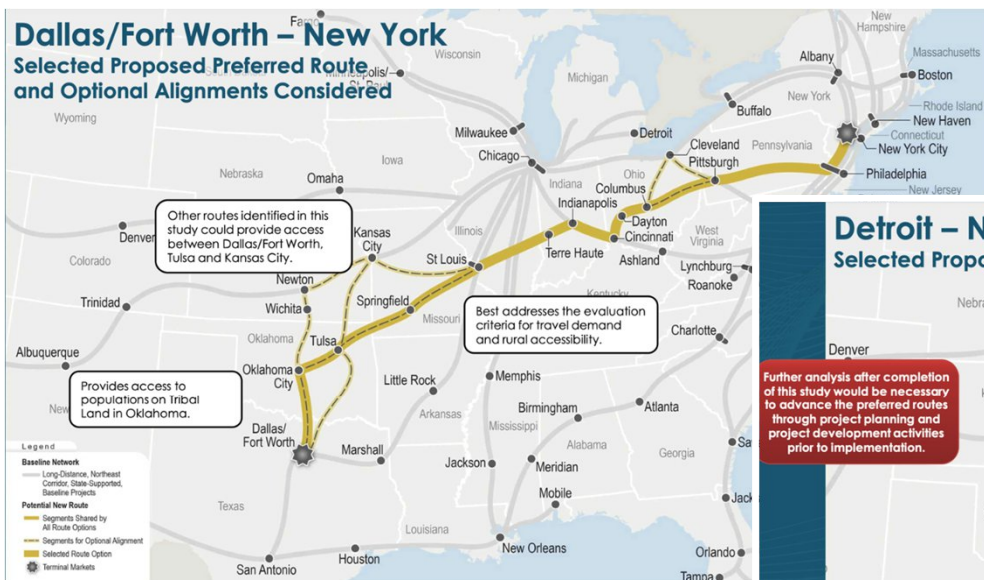
- 3C+D
- Cleveland – Toledo – Detroit
- Chicago – Ft Wayne – Lima – Columbus – Pittsburgh
- Cardinal Improvements to Chicago

3C+D FAQs



- 3x trains a day
- Two stops in Cincinnati metro area
- Completion around 2030
- Runs on existing freight rail lines
 - Safety and infrastructure improvements
- Improvements needed to Union Terminal

Long Distance Rail Study





Benefits of Passenger Rail

- Economic
 - \$ towards construction, hospitality, service industry
 - Incentive for new companies to move to a connected region
 - Transit oriented development
- Societal
 - Connected communities thrive
 - Universities, sports rivalries, trade conferences, arts ...
 - Transportation choices = individual freedom
- Environmental
 - Rail transit is "green"!
 - Less cars on the road





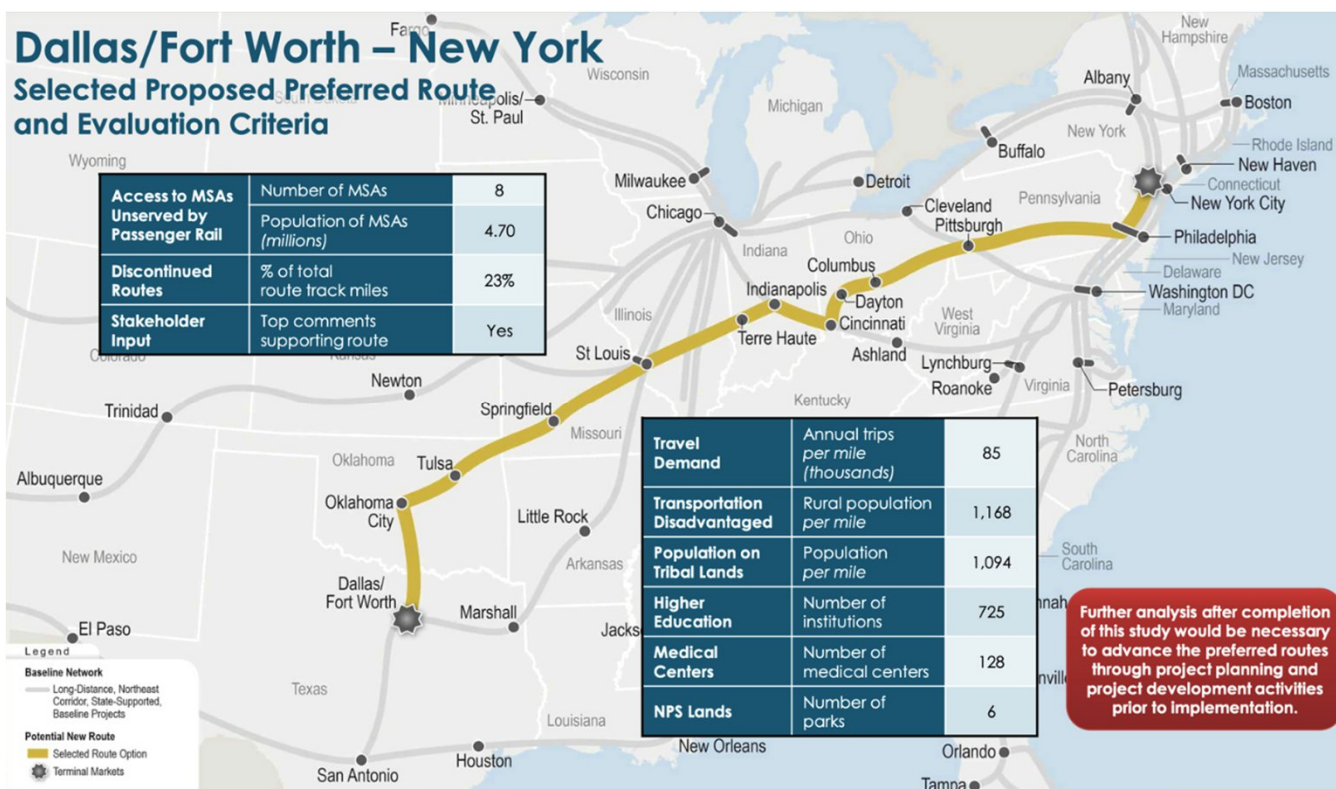
Conclusion

- Exciting future for rail in Cincinnati
- We need the City's leadership in pushing this forward
- Rail is counter-cultural – help us make it mainstream!

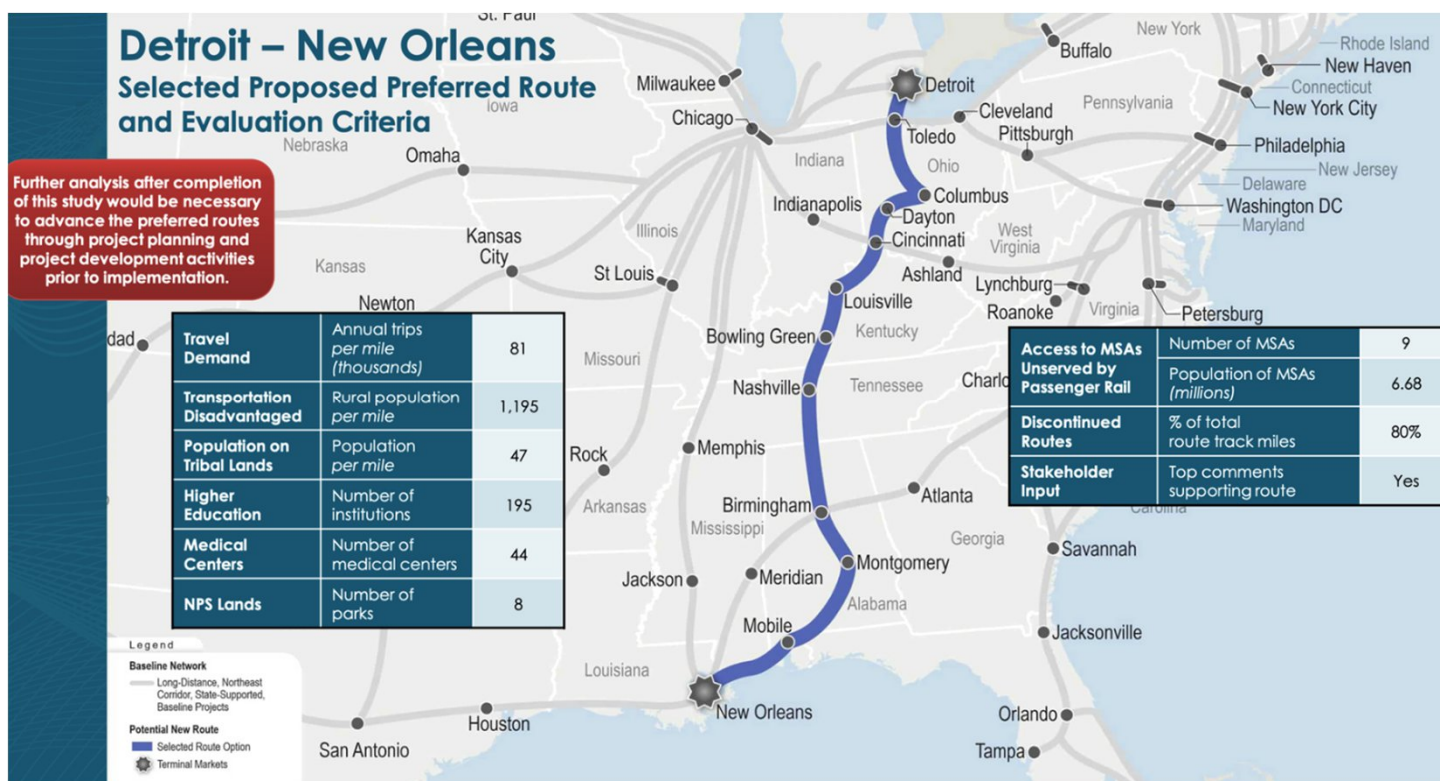


Appendix

Long Distance Routes



Long Distance Routes





202400983

Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

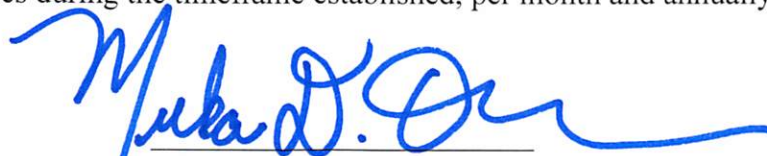
March 18th, 2024

Report #202400403 and Rental and Utility Assistance Dollars

WE MOVE that the administration prepare a report within sixty (60) days on how Report #202400403 entitled Supplemental Report on the Department of Building and Inspections Code Enforcement Process and Chronic Offenders and the correlation between rental and utility assistance dollars that are granted to the residents of those properties from Jan. 1, 2020, to December 6th, 2023.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the administration look at the funds that are allocated from Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services, Community Action Agency, St. Vincent DePaul, and any other organizations that provide rental and utility assistance, per month and annually.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the administration identify the amount of evictions that have been filed by these properties during the timeframe established, per month and annually.


Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

April 3, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager

202401016

Subject: Hillside Overlay District Issue Spotting

Reference Document #202301262

The Climate, Environment & Infrastructure Committee, at its session on May 9, 2023, referred the following item for review and report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Jeffreys, WE MOVE that the Administration report within thirty (30) days on the status of the updates the City is making to its hillside regulations. This update should include, but is not limited to, an update on:

- Funding sources to cover construction mishaps associated with construction within the hillside district.
- Regulations associated with stormwater runoff.
- Work that is being done to update CAGIS' Hillside Overlay District Map.

ORIGINS AND VALIDITY OF THE CAGIS HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT MAP

The CAGIS Hillside Overlay District Map was created and last updated in 2004 at the time of the adoption of the most recent Zoning Code. This map shows those areas of the City where the Hillside Overlay District regulations apply. The regulations guide development in existing hillside areas to ensure it is compatible with the natural environment and a quality urban environment. The regulations are especially focused on locations where the hillsides are of significant public value as determined by the City policy as outlined in the document "A Hillside Protection Strategy for Greater Cincinnati," 1991.

The Hillside Overlay District layer on CAGIS is typically applied to hillside areas where the existence of a 20% slope is combined with the KOPE geologic formation, the shale bedrock that is overlaid by colluvial soils. The layer was created through a digitization of the 1980 "Landslide Susceptibility Study and Map" prepared in 1980 by the consulting firm of Sowers and Dalrymple for the Department of Transportation and Engineering. This map divides the City of Cincinnati into four categories of landslide susceptibility: low, moderate, moderately high, and high. Most areas categorized as moderately high and high are included in the boundaries of the Hillside Overlay Districts. The map is also used by the Department of Buildings and Inspections to determine the need for further geotechnical investigation, requiring geotechnical involvement in areas categorized as moderately high and high.

This study is still considered to be an accurate portrayal of the landslide susceptibility in Cincinnati. If it is determined that further review of the 1980 Landslide Susceptibility Study and Map is warranted, allocation of funds to retain a consultant to perform this work is required.

FUNDING SOURCES

The City does not currently provide funding for construction mishaps associated with private development on private properties - either in a hillside area or otherwise. The Administration does not recommend committing public funds to this purpose and instead recommends focusing on updating or creating appropriate regulations to address the risk.

HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Buildings & Inspections (B&I) convened several meetings of City agencies that regulate development of landslide prone properties, mostly found within Hillside Development Overlay zoning districts. The group identified multiple challenges with management of development within the landslide prone areas. These are summarized below:

- The Zoning Code presently expresses most of the City's aspirations and requirements for development on hillsides. While a GIS layer is a good tool to establish heightened development regulations, and zoning overlays are effective for guiding a community's design preferences for development, the zoning code is ill-suited to establish the associated construction standards and making engineering determinations.
- Damages from landslides are hard to predict, can be financially calamitous to the City and affected property owners, and nearly impossible to insure. A key consideration is to what degree the City should consider preventative strategies, including further studying our landslide susceptibility, preventing poor land management practices like clear-cutting, requiring notice of landslide susceptibility with deeds and property documents, and weighing whether some land is simply not suitable for development.
- Hillside-area specific minimum engineering and building standards do not currently exist and should be created to provide clear standards for hillside development.
- Best practices in mitigation of hillside development risks necessitate a closer examination of the management of stormwater, and the effectiveness and enforcement systems of current stormwater management regulations. This includes examining regulations regarding vegetation and clear-cut management, maximum impervious surface coverage, detention triggers on development and re-development, and detention design requirements.

Given the complexity of these interwoven challenges and the high potential for extensive impacts on development costs and patterns, the Administration proposes to undertake a long-term initiative to update associated law and regulation. Given the multi-department and even multi-government nature of this initiative, the need for extensive community engagement and iteration, and available resources for overseeing such an initiative, this process is expected to take one to two years. However, work is already underway on opportunity identification and changes will be rolled out and implemented throughout this long-term process, as to create more short-term improvement. The Administration will provide periodic updates to Council on the progress.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
Art Dahlberg, Director of Buildings and Inspections
Katherine Keough-Jurs, Director of City Planning and Engagement