



March 13, 2025

City of Milwaukee Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee

200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: Letter of Support for the Acquisition of the 30th Street Corridor Rail Line and Right-of-Way

Dear Ald. Bauman, Ald. Jackson, Ald. Perez, Ald. Stamper, and Ald. Zamarripa,

On behalf of the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation (NWSCDC), we are pleased to express our strong support for File #241777: Substitute resolution directing the Department of City Development to explore the City of Milwaukee's acquisition of the 30th Street Corridor rail line and right-of-way. This strategic move aligns with our mission to foster equitable economic development, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve transportation access for residents of the 30th St. Corridor and surrounding neighborhoods.

NWSCDC is currently part of a coalition of partners involved in the planning process to develop a 30th Street Corridor Equitable Development Plan (EDP), which presents a transformative vision that reimagines this historically significant industrial corridor into a vibrant, multi-use infrastructure that benefits residents, businesses, and the city as a whole. The Corridor was once a thriving center of industry and employment for Black working-class families, yet decades of disinvestment have left the area with economic stagnation, deteriorating infrastructure, and unsafe pedestrian routes.

Acquiring the rail line and right-of-way will allow for the development of the 30th Street Corridor Shared Use Trail, a critical investment that will reconnect neighborhoods, provide safer transit options, and catalyze equitable economic development. The proposed trail will integrate with existing infrastructure, preserving freight activity while introducing a new, dedicated trail system that will provide safe, accessible pathways for pedestrians and cyclists. This initiative will link neighborhoods to key destinations, including jobs, schools, parks, and commercial centers, and will serve as a crucial connection to the Hank Aaron State Trail, Oak Leaf Trail, and Beerline Trail—creating a 17.5-mile continuous urban trail loop.

Importantly, the EDP prioritizes anti-displacement strategies to ensure that neighborhood residents and businesses benefit from the revitalization of the Corridor. By fostering inclusive development, affordable

housing opportunities, and workforce training programs, this initiative will help ensure that historically disinvested communities receive the economic opportunities they deserve.

The acquisition of the rail line is a crucial first step in advancing this community-driven vision. We urge the Common Council to support this resolution and direct the City of Milwaukee to invest in a future that prioritizes equity, connectivity, and economic prosperity for all Milwaukee residents. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the future of our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willie Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Willie" and last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

Willie Smith, Executive Director

Northwest Side Community Development Corporation

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