



# CITY OF AVON LAKE, OHIO

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NOACA

Building Department  
930-4102

Civil Service Commission  
933-6141

Clerk of Council  
930-4121

Council President  
930-4120

Engineering Department  
930-4101

Finance Department  
930-4124

Fire Department  
933-8305

Human Resources  
933-6141

Law Director  
930-4122

Mayor's Office  
930-4100

Municipal Court  
930-4103

Municipal Utilities  
933-6226

Planning Department  
930-4110

Police Department  
933-4567

Recreation Department  
930-4130

Service Department  
930-4126

Zoning Department  
930-4143

The Honorable Mayor Frank Jackson  
Cleveland City Hall  
601 Lakeside Avenue  
Room 202  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

August 20, 2007

Dear Mayor Jackson,

Thank you for your participation in this weeks Plain Dealer feature section on Cleveland Plus. It is very refreshing to see the central city of a metropolitan area speak of the many qualities the area has to offer. Your statements ring true when you said, "As the heart of Northeast Ohio, Cleveland provides the cultural and economic vibrancy that resonates throughout the metropolitan area. In Cleveland, ideas are born, region-wide partnerships are fostered, and initiatives are launched."


I too share your goals of regional cooperative efforts. The Northeast Ohio Mayors and Managers Association has launched an initiative with the Fund For Our Economic Future to foster a regional plan to, as you say, "helping people to connect with one another through shared spaces and through shared aspirations for creating better quality of life." Our goal will be to have a blue print to demonstrate how regional efforts benefit everyone.

Today, I would like your assistance to make these goals and words reality. You may be aware the current Metropolitan Planning Organization for Northeast Ohio, (NOACA), will be voting on September 14<sup>th</sup> to approve or disapprove a regional initiative for an interchange on Interstate 90. The transportation studies have already indicated the need for the interchange based upon the traffic volumes and demands. An economic study will soon be complete. My concern, there seems to be members of the NOACA Board who do not share your vision of regional cooperation and growth for Northeast Ohio.

The City of Avon Lake is very concerned about the future of this interchange. A vast majority of our residents work in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County and this interchange will improve their transportation needs and improve their quality of life. Like so many other metropolitan regions of our country it is important to have good transportation from the

suburbs to the central city and vice versa. Good transportation systems foster economic growth and attract more people to our region. We do not want to be left behind with provincial thinking and miss the opportunity for growth this interchange can offer. It is time we start thinking cooperatively and I hope you will join me in supporting this much needed regional transportation project for our region. Otherwise, all these conversations about regionalism are just words in the paper.

Sincerely,



Mayor, Robert J. Berner  
City of Avon Lake

Cc: Howard Maier, NOACA Executive Director  
Robert Brown, NOACA Governing Board President  
Terrance C.Z. Egger, President and Publisher, The Plain Dealer