



IRISHTOWN BEND PROJECT

Background

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) accepted a \$9 Million grant award from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Irishtown Bend Project.

Irishtown Bend is a section of the Cuyahoga River in the City of Cleveland, named for the Irish immigrants who once lived there. This vital shipping channel carries iron ore and other freight to companies like ArcelorMittal, one of the most productive steel producing facilities in the country, and carries manufactured steel back out to Lake Erie for distribution. Sixty percent of the steel produced at ArcelorMittal stays in Ohio, used in automotive, appliance, construction, and other manufacturing industries.

Without this project, the 60 to 70-year-old deteriorated bulkheads that line the river and support the hillside will fail, causing a disastrous collapse of the hillside into the river and blocking all shipping activity in both directions. Recent engineering reports have raised new concerns about the hillside's stability. Repairing the aging bulkheads along the river and achieving geo-stability on the adjacent hillside will keep Cleveland's shipping channel open, protecting 20,000 existing jobs and spurring new economic development and employment opportunities.



The total cost of repairing the bulkheads and stabilizing the hillside is currently estimated at \$36 million. So far, NOACA has assembled funding from numerous sources, including \$9 million from today's U.S. DOT INFRA grant, \$3.5 million local match share requirement from NOACA's Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, \$7 million from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, \$5 million from the State of Ohio, and \$1 million from the City of Cleveland. NOACA is exploring various funding sources for the remaining \$10.5 million needed to complete the project.

As the hillside stability is restored, NOACA will continue to work with our community partners to create a sustainable 17-acre hillside park with trails and a riverfront boardwalk, to enhance the

lives of nearby residents and attract new commercial development along W. 25th Street. NOACA committed funds toward planning and implementation of the transportation elements of the park and walkability connections to the neighborhoods. Other funding partners of the park include the Cleveland Foundation, Ohio City Inc., Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and L.A.N.D. Studio.



Photos showing the shipping channel and recent deterioration of the hillside:



Rendering of the proposed hillside park and riverfront boardwalk/multi-purpose trail:

