



# Near West

## Intergenerational School

May 20, 2021

### BOARD RESOLUTION

At the Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors of Near West Intergenerational School on **May 20, 2021** the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board:

**WHEREAS** the mission of Near West Intergenerational School is to connect, create, and guide a multigenerational community of lifelong learners and spirited citizens as they strive for academic excellence;

**WHEREAS** the safety of our students and the broader community's children is of paramount concern to the Near West Intergenerational School Board of Directors, administration, teachers, and families;

**WHEREAS** in 2018, the City of Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) began a study, as part of the Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI), to develop a plan to calm the traffic on Franklin Boulevard and improve neighborhood safety.

**WHEREAS** the study collected feedback from the community and resulted in a plan for traffic calming that included raised crosswalks and intersection-expanding roundabouts with clearly noticeable vertical elements such as landscaping and signage.

**WHEREAS** a significant number of neighborhood pedestrians and cyclists (including many children) cross the intersection at West 38th Street and Franklin Boulevard on a daily basis to access Fairview Park (which has a playground, practice and playing fields, and a summer water feature), Kentucky Community Gardens, and Near West Intergenerational School (a K-8 public school housed in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Kentucky Building).

**WHEREAS** the current plan issued by the City of Cleveland for the West Franklin Boulevard Traffic Calming project excludes the most critical safety features of the NOACA TLCI plan such as the raised crosswalks and noticeable vertical visual elements in expanded roundabouts, replacing them with smaller, flat, 2-3" concrete islands.

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[www.intergenerationschools.org](http://www.intergenerationschools.org)

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**WHEREAS** these plans in their current form pose a major safety threat to neighborhood children as well as adults crossing Franklin to access the aforementioned public amenities.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Near West Intergenerational School Board implores the City of Cleveland to implement the original NOACA TLCI plan (replacing the critical safety elements present in the NOACA TLCI plan including expanded roundabouts with vertical visual elements, raised crosswalks, etc.) for the West Franklin Boulevard Traffic Calming project. Without these key elements, the current proposed, modified version of the project will result in less safe conditions at the West 38th Street and Franklin intersection, as well as other intersections along Franklin Boulevard.

We share the goals of improved safety outcomes for a problematic roadway, and for the City's significant investment in this project to bring about the intended results. If the City of Cleveland will not implement the original NOACA TLCI plan including these key safety elements essential to the project, it is in the interest of the welfare and protection of children and adults in the area, to terminate the project altogether as these modifications to the original plan will render the project ineffectual.

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Sarah Trimble, Board Chair

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Lynn Carpenter, Vice Chair

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