

# City of Cincinnati

Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program

North Avondale Business District

Street & Sidewalk Lighting Enhancement & Improvement Plan

Funding Request Application - Minor Project

April 20, 2018

**CITY OF CINCINNATI**  
Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program  
FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION

Project Name: Street & Sidewalk Lighting Enhancement & Improvement Plan

Project Address: Reading Road Corridor between Dana Avenue & Asmann Avenue

Neighborhood: North Avondale

Business Association: North Avondale Business Association

Community Council: North Avondale Neighborhood Association

Project Description: This project will involve replacing and supplementing existing street lighting along and adjacent to North Avondale’s Reading Road NBD corridor. More specifically, we will replace all existing overhead street lighting fixtures with new energy-efficient LED fixtures. The current fixtures contain high-pressure sodium bulbs that give off an orangish light (2,200K) which doesn’t make the area look inviting at night. The new fixtures will house LED units that give off the full spectrum of light colors (4,000-6,000K) in a way that approximates daylight. Not only will this literally make the corridor brighter, it will also make the entire NBD safer and more inviting for residents and visitors whether it’s by foot or in a vehicle. This is a relatively inexpensive project that we believe will complement and leverage existing safety amenities that were installed as part of past projects. Additionally, we believe it will make the currently vacant city-owned lot at the 3900 block more attractive to developers and help highlight that you have entered a “place” as you approach and enter the NBD from any direction.

1. Type of Project:

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor  X

2. Benefit to Low & Moderate Income Persons:

North Avondale’s NBD is adjacent to Census Tracts 66 and 68, both of which are designated as Low-to-Moderate Income, which include a number of public and subsidizing housing complexes. This project is intended to improve the aesthetics and cleanliness of North Avondale’s NBD for all individuals, but especially to those who may be traveling by foot or transit. Though certainly not true in all cases, individuals from low- to moderate-income households are more likely to utilize transit than those in high-income households. Reading Road is one of the top-traveled bus corridors in Greater Cincinnati; reinforcing this is the presence of no less than 10 bus stops in or near the NBD. As a result, they’re more likely to begin and end their journeys by foot in order to reach their destinations. All of the improved refuse amenities would be located in areas of higher foot traffic, especially at corners, parks, and bus stops.

North Avondale has a significant number of households where residents are either already aging in place or would like to age in place. Improving amenities that encourage pedestrian activity increases the likelihood that businesses within walking distance are available to those who are would like to decrease travel distance and may also be on fixed incomes at any stage of life, but particular in their post-retirement years.

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3. NBD Impact:

This relatively simple project would have a simple, yet profound, impact upon the future of North Avondale and its NBD. Sitting near the geographic center of both the City and the County, there is little that can't be reached within 15 minutes. Similarly, yet conversely, residents of most Cincinnati neighborhoods can reach North Avondale within 15 minutes. Focusing on incremental projects in such a centrally located neighborhood would be ideal for creating additional reinvestment in adjacent neighborhoods, many of which have experienced significant economic turmoil over the past few decades. North Avondale also sits on the western border of Xavier University's main campus which makes it an ideal location for college students and young professionals alike.

North Avondale suffers from a few negative perceptions, including the belief that it's unsafe -- both by those who may recognize that they're in an NBD and also by those who may not even know that they've left adjacent neighborhoods. Improving and modernizing the light fixtures that blanket the NBD's streets and sidewalks at night is a simple way quickly change how visitors and residents alike perceive North Avondale. This plan will also complement prior projects that have been undertaken in recent years to improve safety, particularly the surveillance system that was installed and placed in select location within and adjacent to the NBD.

After being vacant for two decades, both the neighborhood and the city are seeking to have the city-owned lots in the 3900 block of Reading Road redeveloped into a mixed-use, medium-density structure as part of the city-sanctioned RFP process. Both NANA and NABA have been actively engaged with multiple city departments (DCED, DOTE, and Planning) to build consensus and a critical mass that would address various externalities currently hindering redevelopment. Some of the efforts being pursued include introducing traffic-calming solutions, increasing pedestrian and biking amenities, increasing on-street parking, and "squaring up" the Paddock-Barry-Reading intersection.

4. Jobs Impact:

Prior funding requests have estimated that approximately 90 existing jobs would be retained and that about 35 jobs would be created as a result of additional investment in North Avondale's NBD. Though it would be difficult to definitively tie job retention and growth to any one particular project in any NBD in any context, it would certainly be safe to say that any effort to improve the safety and aesthetics of the neighborhood would benefit existing business and attract prospective businesses.

There are currently five buildings with at least 10 commercial vacancies along Reading Road in the NBD. Should small businesses take root, each could produce an average of five new FTEs should small businesses take root which translates into at least 50 new FTEs. Within and near the NBD, there are at least 20 currently vacant lots upon which new commercial and residential development could be built. Depending upon market demands, some of these lots could be combined or subdivided to the degree that the zoning code and master plan would allow.

The collection of city-owned vacant lots at the 3900 block of Reading Road provides a unique opportunity for a larger development with commercial/retail space on the first floor. This project alone could produce an additional 50 FTEs depending on how the space could be configured, how many

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businesses would thus be able to sign, and what kind of businesses they would be. Based on the job retention (\$6,000 per job) and job creation (\$10,000 per FTE) benchmarks, this plan more than satisfies this requirement regardless of how you piece it together.

Though maintaining the historic nature of North Avondale’s existing building stock is certainly a priority, increasing both commercial and residential density is recognized as necessary for the economic sustainability of current and future businesses. Should residential development continue at the desired levels, an additional 100-200 residents could also be added to the neighborhood.

5. Businesses Assisted:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| ○ Avon Fields Golf Course                                    | 4081 Reading Road     |
| ○ Belvedere Condominium Association                          | 3900 Rose Hill Avenue |
| ○ Cincinnati African-American Firefighters Association, Inc. | 4015 Reading Road     |
| ○ Community Friends Meeting                                  | 3960 Winding Way      |
| ○ Cosmetic & Implant Dental Center of Cincinnati             | 910 Barry Lane        |
| ○ Cricket Wireless Authorized Retailer                       | 4007 Reading Road     |
| ○ Full Spectrum Health Center, LLC                           | 3836 Reading Road     |
| ○ House of God of the Apostolic                              | 3863 Reading Road     |
| ○ J. Miles Wolf Photography, LLC                             | 952 Lenox Place       |
| ○ Khayra Hair & Nail Salon                                   | 3854 Reading Road     |
| ○ Lenox Building Company, Ltd                                | 3915 Reading Road     |
| ○ Metro PCS Authorized Retailer                              | 3909 Reading Road     |
| ○ McCall Funeral Home  | 3800 Reading Road     |
| ○ Original Luster Investments                                | 4041 Reading Road     |
| ○ The Punch House  | 3911 Reading Road     |
| ○ Rose Hill Condominium Association                          | 3896 Reading Road     |
| ○ Shampoo Hair & Nail Salon                                  | 4007 Reading Road     |
| ○ Sickle Cell Awareness of Greater Cincinnati                | 3770 Reading Road     |
| ○ Sober Living   | 4027 Reading Road     |
| ○ Sonny’s All Blues Lounge                                   | 4040 Reading Road     |
| ○ Urban Blooms   | 3895 Reading Road     |
| ○ Volunteers of America                                      | 3816 Reading Road     |
| ○ Walker Funeral Home & Event Center                         | 3939 Reading Road     |
| ○ Zion Temple First Pentecostal Church & Christian Academy   | 3771 Reading Road     |

6. Other Public & Private Funding Leveraged:

Both NANA and NABA are actively pursuing opportunities to build the critical mass to ensure continued momentum within the NBD. Below are some estimates of current and projected investments, both public and private:

- \$750,000 in grant funding from the City for the development of the vacant lot(s) at 3916 Reading Road
- \$250,000 in projected private investment at the Lenox Garage to restore historic building
- \$50,000+ in annual private investment at Rose Hill Condominiums to restore historic building
- \$50,000+ in annual private investment at Belvedere Condominiums to preserve historic building

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- \$100,000+ in projected private investment in various other private commercial and residential properties near and around the NBD
- Additional private investment is likely should the city show interest in public investment in making the neighborhood more pedestrian-oriented and thus friendly to small businesses

7. Budget:

Below is an estimated budget on how the \$30,000 would be used based on some assumed average per-unit costs. The budget would be adjusted accordingly to ensure that no more than requested amount is spent and that the most refuse amenities would be built as possible. The ability for the community to use the aforementioned \$750,000 available for the vacant lot(s) in the 3900 block of Reading Road would have an impact upon how much else we can do in and around the NBD. From bid to installation, the project could be completed within a month or two.

<u>Item</u>	<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Avg. Cost/Unit</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
LED fixtures on poles w/ HPS fixtures	30	\$200	\$6,000
LED fixtures on poles w/o any fixtures	30	\$200	\$6,000
Additional materials & parts per fixture	60	\$100	\$6,000
Installation labor hours	60	\$100	\$6,000
Miscellaneous Costs (e.g. extra labor, parts)	-	-	\$6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$30,000</b>

8. Neighborhood Contribution:

Representatives from both NANA and NABA are fully willing to contribute to the execution of this project, though much of it can only be done by the City and Duke Energy. Members of the Pedestrian Safety Committee will assist with identifying the locations for replacement and new installation and with the selection of the parts and materials to be installed. This project will also be proactively used to leverage the already-described, on-going efforts to improve the NBD and market the neighborhood to prospective residents and new businesses.

9. Does this project complete or continue a previously funded project?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

10. Does your community have an approved plan?

Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which goal or objective of the plan does this project implement?

The master plan for North Avondale was last approved in 1994 and this project would complement it. That being said, it is currently in the process of being updated in conjunction with the city's Department of Planning. To the south, Avondale is also updating their master plan and select objectives will be updated to complement their efforts as they relate to the Reading Road corridor.



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13. Project Coordinator & Contact Person:

Name: David A. Emery  
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Cincinnati, OH 45229  
Phone: 513-379-7147  
Fax: 513-762-7165  
Email: [emeryda@gmail.com](mailto:emeryda@gmail.com)

Names & Contact Info of Active Pedestrian Safety Committee Members

Michael Caporale	<a href="mailto:varicap@mac.com">varicap@mac.com</a>	513-307-7301
Tiffani Tribble	<a href="mailto:tribbletn@gmail.com">tribbletn@gmail.com</a>	513-549-4686
Maura Wolf	<a href="mailto:maurawolf100@gmail.com">maurawolf100@gmail.com</a>	513-218-0503
Kenneth Brawner	<a href="mailto:kbrawner25@gmail.com">kbrawner25@gmail.com</a>	513-484-1443

14. Status of Previously Funded Projects:

This lighting improvement plan would complement previously funded projects in North Avondale. In particular, security cameras were installed at select locations throughout and adjacent to the NBD. These have undoubtedly deterred crime and some have provided evidence for the police department to catch criminals. Improved lighting will not only deter more crime, it will also make the cameras more effective when crime does occur. The gateway signage project was put on hold due to the potential reconfiguration of the intersection at Victory Parkway and Dana Avenue, but that reconfiguration was nixed and the project is back on track to be completed sometime this year.







## NORTH AVONDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

617 Clinton Springs Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229  
513.401.5356  
[nanacincinnati@gmail.com](mailto:nanacincinnati@gmail.com)  
[northavondalecincinnati.com](http://northavondalecincinnati.com)

April 19, 2018

**President**

*Tiffani N. Tribble*

To: Members of the Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program

**1st Vice President**

*Vacant*

This is a letter of support regarding the two applications submitted by the North Avondale Business Association (NABA). The two projects submitted for your review include the Street & Sidewalk Lighting Enhancement & Improvement Plan and the Sidewalk Beautification & Refuse Improvement Plan. Each project, should they be approved, will help contribute to our organizational efforts to promote the general welfare of our residents through the areas of public safety and beautification.

**2nd Vice President**

*Michael Caporale*

In discussing each application with the community during our March Membership meeting, there was agreement that the Street & Sidewalk Lighting plan would greatly contribute to the overall feeling of safety and well-being, while also brightening our streets. The current lighting is dim and prohibits many from feeling safe while walking along our streets after dark. A motion was made and approved to support both applications at this March meeting.

**3rd Vice President**

*Yvonne Bush Fender*

**Recording Secretary**

*Ken Brawner*

Like many other Cincinnati neighborhoods, North Avondale struggles to control the amount of litter that blankets our boundaries. In an effort to reduce the litter and keep the streets clean, NABA has researched and come up with an exciting solution to our unsightly litter problem - solar powered trash compactors. We hope that with their usage, "fly-off" from too-full garbage cans will cease. These trash compactors will also allow more waste to be collected than a traditional receptacle - reducing the amount of hours the City has to spend for trash collection.

**Corresponding Secretary**

*Jennifer Cronk*

It is the hope of the North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA) that your committee deems each project submitted by NABA worthy of receiving the full requested amount for each project. While the benefits to our community have previously been outlined, I believe they also reach beyond the perimeters of North Avondale by encouraging neighboring communities to consider similar steps once they see how successful these enhancements have been for our neighborhood.

**Treasurer**

*Hanne Loken Larsen*

NANA enthusiastically endorses each application and is appreciative of the work NABA is doing to protect and enhance the safety of our neighborhood. Please feel free to contact me to provide further information as you make your decision.

Sincerely,

Tiffani N. Tribble  
NANA President  
[nanacincinnati@gmail.com](mailto:nanacincinnati@gmail.com)





Mr. Philip Denning  
Director Community and Economic Development  
805 Central Avenue, Suite 710  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

April 19, 2018

Dear Mr. Denning,

I am writing you today in my capacity as President of the North Avondale Business Association (NABA) to add this letter of support to our two 2018 NBDIP minor grant applications.

While it may not be deemed necessary, perhaps even redundant to do so since it is we who are making the application, I would nevertheless like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of these two very small "asks" to the safety of our community and the future development of our business district.

The Reading Road corridor, especially in the 3800 block between Clifton Springs and Paddock is a high accident area and we have even experienced a pedestrian death in the crosswalk at Reading and Clinton Springs. The Paddock and Reading intersection is the site of accidents almost daily. While we continue to seek many answers to reduce this problem, we feel that better lighting can enhance nighttime safety.

The trash receptacles in this area seem to be always overflowing and it creates a vision for the many passersby that this is an area in decline, an image detrimental to our development of the business district to attract appropriate businesses and developers, especially to the vacant lot across from the Lenox Building, a critical element in our plans for the future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Caporale', written in a cursive style.

Michael Caporale  
President NABA



Mr. Philip Denning  
Director Community and Economic Development  
805 Central Avenue, Suite 710  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

### North Avondale Neighborhood Business Support:

We the following North Avondale businesses situated along the Reading Road corridor between Clinton Springs and Paddock Road and/or near the intersection of Paddock and Reading are pleased to join the many other businesses of our neighborhood in support of the **two minor NBDIP grants** being submitted to CNBDU for the 2018 year.

Improvements to our **street lighting** will appreciably affect traffic visibility and the clarity of our street surveillance cameras, improve pedestrian safety and reduce the potential for both crime and accidents.

In addition to enhancing the image of our NBD to passing drivers, the addition of the **self-compacting trash receptacles** will reduce litter overflow and improve the viability of future development of the vacant lot across from the Lennox.

If a neighborhood appears to be in disrepair or unmanaged, it extends an invitation to unwanted activities and further slips into undesirable patterns. These two improvements will increase our ability to do business in our neighborhood and support future development.

Dr. Al-Zwbi, A Cosmetic + Implant Dental center - ~~if available~~

SHAMPOO HAIR & NAILS Salon - Pamela Vinpox

Zohaib Khan Imdad LLC - Cricket Wireless

Isaiah Walker Funeral Home

POA The Punch House

Lily T. Urban Blooms

McAul Funeral Home

Daniel C. Young Rose Hill Condominiums

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19 April 19, 2018

Mr. Brian Ogawa  
City of Cincinnati  
Department of Economic Development  
805 Central Ave, Suite 710  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Mr. Ogawa,

My name is Joe Galvin, and I am President of the Paddock Hills Assembly. I am writing to you as I understand the North Avondale Business Association has submitted an application under the Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program.

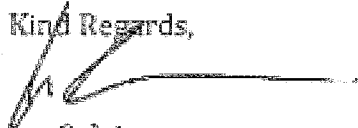
Their application is requesting funds to improve street lighting adjacent to North Avondale's Reading Road corridor, and I would like to express my support for their request.

As our direct neighbor, North Avondale provides one of the main entrances to our community. Improvements to the Reading Road corridor will help Paddock Hills, by creating an environment that is more welcoming to both residents and development.

It is my hope you approve their application, as Paddock Hills will benefit as well from your investment.

Thank you very much.

Kind Regards,



Joe Galvin  
President  
Paddock Hills Association  
president@paddockhills.org

