

Cleveland Metroparks, The Trust for Public Land, and LAND studio established the Connecting Cleveland Partnership in 2015 with a vision to develop a network of trails linking the Lake Erie shore at Wendy Park to the Ohio to Erie Canal Towpath Trail along the Cuyahoga River. From this partnership two sections of the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail opened in 2015 and 2017, and the eLCee2 water taxi service was established in 2016.

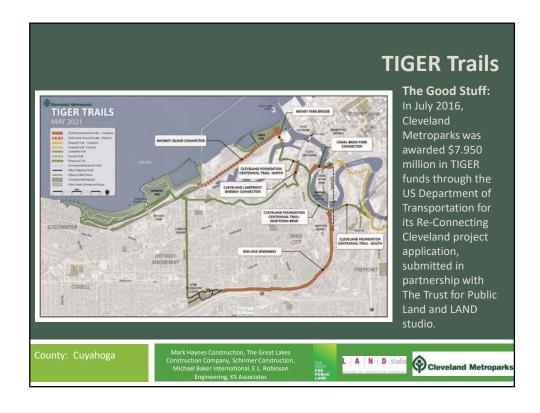
In 2016, in an application submitted in partnership with TPL and LAND studio, Cleveland Metroparks received a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to accelerate and expand the Connecting Cleveland efforts. Along with the generous support, partnership, and efforts of the organizations below the Wendy Park Bridge, Whiskey Island Trail, Red Line Greenway, Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway Connector Trail, and Canal Basin Park Connector Trail were completed in 2021.

At the time of award, Cleveland Metroparks was only the second Park District to received this highly competitive TIGER grant (subsequently called BUILD and now RAISE).

Provide contact information in case we need to contact you about this project.

Name: Sara Byrnes Maier Phone #: 216.635.3289

E-mail address: sbm@clevelandmetroparks.com



The TIGER project was unique and challenging in that it rolled five separate trails into one grant application and one project ID with ODOT. There were two separate design contracts and four construction contracts let for the five projects. Working through issues with railroads were challenging at times, but the work of many positive and committed project partners made the project happen and funds obligated within a relatively short window.

The TIGER projects, and the entire Connecting Cleveland initiative with TPL and LAND studio, were borne out of planning going back some 20 years to connect the river to the lakefront and build off of the developing Towpath Trail.



The projects are just now opening up, however, the two small connector projects opened in 2019. Most of the use will be gauged when we have a fully connected system. Additionally, the trails provide access to many underserved members of the community and serve as safe transportation corridors that lead to schools, jobs, shopping, and recreation.

