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RESOLUTION NO. 17 -2008

**EXPRESSING** City Council's opposition to a new bridge located over the Queensgate area as proposed in Brent Spence Bridge Replacement/Rehabilitation Alternatives One and Two, in order to avoid significant economic losses to area businesses in Queensgate, including the loss of jobs, the loss of business opportunities, and the loss of earnings and property taxes; **URGING** the Ohio Department of Transportation to further develop Brent Spence Bridge Replacement/Rehabilitation Project Alternative Four (Ohio portion) to allow for a better assessment of the design, ensuring full access to downtown Cincinnati, Queensgate, the West End, and the West Side of Cincinnati; **EXPRESSING** City Council's opposition to any reconfiguration that would eliminate direct access to I-75 North from Freeman Avenue as it currently exists, in order to maintain efficient and safe access for the heavy truck traffic in Queensgate as well as the economic well being of the West Side of the City of Cincinnati; **URGING** the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop direct access to the Sixth Street Expressway/US 50 West from I-75 South as well as direct access to I-75 North from the Sixth Street Expressway/US 50 East; and further **REQUESTING** that any design of the interchange at Interstate I-75 and the Western Hills Viaduct include an analysis of: (1) Safety and capacity needs on McMillan Avenue going to and from Uptown; (2) the study and design of the Western Hills Viaduct replacement.

**WHEREAS**, the Brent Spence Bridge Replacement/Rehabilitation Project will be a multi-billion dollar infrastructure investment that is vital to the City of Cincinnati; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bridge and its approaches are key elements of the nation's interstate highway system and are the backbone of commerce and travel through the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the current proposed alternatives for replacement and/or rehabilitation of the Bridge, which address congestion issues, air quality, safety, design, and traffic concerns, will have a direct impact on immediate and future viability of the surrounding communities at the endpoints of the Bridge, including downtown Cincinnati, Queensgate, the West End, and the West Side of the City of Cincinnati; and

**WHEREAS**, Council recognizes Queensgate as a center of economic activity and as a primary area for industrial development due to its key access points for intermodal transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, Council recognizes downtown Cincinnati for providing the City's major concentration of jobs, arts and entertainment district, newest housing market, and special event sites; and

**WHEREAS**, a variety of access points are critical to maintain the viability and success of all the uses and needs of these areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the ramp system should be simplified as much as possible to maintain proper access while providing additional developable land; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Council hereby expresses its opposition to a new bridge located over the Queensgate area, as proposed in Brent Spence Bridge Replacement/Rehabilitation Alternatives One and Two, in order to avoid significant economic losses to area businesses in Queensgate, including the loss of jobs, the loss of business opportunities, and the loss of earnings and property taxes.

Section 2. That Council hereby urges the Ohio Department of Transportation to further develop Brent Spence Bridge Replacement/Rehabilitation Alternative Four (Ohio portion) to allow for a better assessment of the design, ensuring full access to downtown Cincinnati, Queensgate, the West End, and the West Side of the City of Cincinnati.

Section 3. That Council hereby expresses its opposition to any reconfiguration that would eliminate direct access to I-75 North from Freeman Avenue as it currently exists, in order to maintain efficient and safe access for the heavy truck traffic in Queensgate as well as the economic well being of the West Side of the City of Cincinnati.

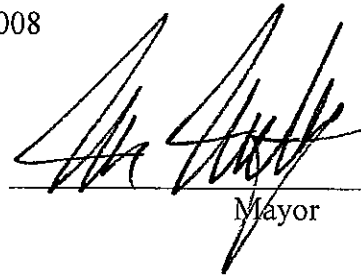
Section 4. That Council hereby urges the Ohio Department of Transportation to develop direct access to the Sixth Street Expressway/US 50 West from I-75 South as well as direct access to I-75 North from the Sixth Street Expressway/US 50 East.

Section 5. That Council hereby requests that any design of the interchange at Interstate I-75 and the Western Hills Viaduct include an analysis of: (1) Safety and

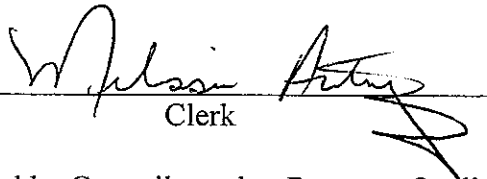
capacity needs on McMillan Avenue going to and from Uptown; (2) the study and design of the Western Hills Viaduct replacement.

Section 6. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be sent to all members of the Cincinnati delegation of the Ohio General Assembly; Jim Beazley, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation; and Stefan Spinosa, Ohio Department of Transportation Project Manager.

Passed: March 26, 2008

  
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Mayor

Attest:

  
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Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Roxanne Qualls.