

July 14, 2023

Dear Community Connectors Grant Program Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the application submitted by Bluffline, Inc. for the Community Connectors grant program. As the chair of the Pensacola Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and Regional Public Affairs and Communications Advisor for Neighborworks America, I am deeply committed to initiatives that promote equitable and sustainable community development

The Bluffline project is an ambitious initiative that aims to reconnect Pensacola residents with their environment and each other by building a 10-mile greenway from Scenic Heights to West Pensacola. This project addresses urban division and decay caused by the construction of I-110, integrating existing parks via underutilized rail and utility rights of way. The project's focus on improving transportation safety and access, mitigating climate change, and uniting Pensacola's diverse neighborhoods around a shared vision for a healthier, more equitable future aligns perfectly with the objectives of the Community Connectors program.

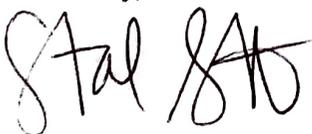
Research and industry best practices have shown that greenway projects can have a significant impact on affordable housing. Greenways can increase the attractiveness and livability of neighborhoods, potentially leading to increased housing demand and values. However, without careful planning and coordination, this can also lead to displacement of low-income residents. Therefore, it is crucial that greenway projects like the Bluffline are coordinated with affordable housing strategies to ensure that all residents, regardless of income, can benefit.

As chair of the Pensacola Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, I am committed to working closely with Bluffline, Inc. and other stakeholders to ensure that the project advances affordable housing in our community. We will work together to develop strategies that leverage the greenway to create affordable housing opportunities, such as encouraging mixed-income development along the greenway and implementing policies to preserve and expand affordable housing in neighborhoods adjacent to the greenway.

I am confident that the Bluffline project, with its commitment to equity and sustainability, will make a significant contribution to our community. I wholeheartedly endorse this application and look forward to the positive changes it will bring to Pensacola's residents.

Thank you for considering this application. I am available to provide any further information you may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Scott'.

Crystal Scott  
Chair, Pensacola Affordable Housing Advisory Committee  
Regional Public Affairs and Communications Advisor, Neighborworks America  
cscott@nw.org