



Memorandum

To: Members of the Safety and Public Works Committee

From: Joyce G. Braverman, Director of Planning
Kara Hamley O'Donnell, Principal Planner
Anna Mates, Planner

cc: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Englehart, Director of Economic Development
Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director of Public Works

Date: July 15, 2025

Re: 2026 Ohio History Fund Grant; Stabilization of the Historic Lynnfield RTA Station

This is a request to authorize a grant application to, and to accept a grant from, the 2026 Ohio History Connection History Fund Grant Program to use toward exterior stabilization of the historic Lynnfield RTA Station. The project area is located next to the RTA tracks at the intersection of Van Aken Boulevard and Parkland Drive/Lynnfield Road. The Planning Department will submit a grant application for \$20,000 (the maximum amount available), with the requirement for 40% local match consisting of CDSG funds, if granted, or other City capital funds.

The Ohio History Connection History Fund is a competitive matching grant program dedicated to supporting history projects throughout the state. Grants are crowd-funded and made possible through the generous support of Ohio residents. Public entities and nonprofit organizations incorporated in Ohio are eligible to apply for grants that fall into three categories: Bricks & Mortar, Organizational Development, or Programs & Collections.

The Lynnfield RTA Station is located within the Shaker Village National Register Historic District and is a Local Landmark, designated in 1998. The Lynnfield Station, located at 18900 Van Aken Boulevard on the RTA's light rail Blue Line, was constructed in 1922 and originally marked the final stop of the rapid transit line before it was later extended to Warrensville Center Road. The Lynnfield Station was also leased to a series of tenants over time, including a soda/candy shop and, most recently, to a day spa called Beauty on the Line. It has been vacant for approximately 8-9 years. Over the years, the historic station has fallen into disrepair. With a desire to see this station stabilized and eventually put back into productive use, Ohio History Fund grant funds will be pursued to begin the stabilization process.

We ask the Safety and Public Works Committee to recommend approval and authorization to submit a \$20,000 grant application to and to accept a grant from the 2026 Ohio History Connection History Fund Grant Program for exterior stabilization of the historic Lynnfield RTA Station. Projects may include masonry tuckpointing and repair, roof repair, window restoration, foundation work, site work, or other work key to stabilizing the building. Additional funds required for building stabilization and interior improvements, currently estimated at \$267,000, will be sought through grants, partnerships, and City Capital.

The grant application and supporting legislation are due to the Ohio History Connection on September 9, 2025. Grant recipients will be notified of awards in spring 2026.