




City of Detroit  
Detroit City Council  
Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway  
District 2

**MEMORANDUM**

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TO: Honorable Council  
Members of the Public

FROM: Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway 

DATE: November 14, 2023

RE: Statement on I-375 MDOT RECONNECTING Project

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Last week during Formal session, I expressed my vehement opposition to the proposed I-375 Reconnecting Communities Project. First, we must continue to tirelessly acknowledge the deepened racial history of HOW highways were built and WHO these mega-structures affected. It is without a doubt that communities across this country were condemned, and residents forcibly removed to make way for these projects.

Secondly, to no fault of our own, we lacked the foresight regarding the environmental impact highways would have on our communities. It is this continued dependence on an autocentric approach that still regressively affects us today. Cities like ours need to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges that our citizens are facing now. A lack of political willingness to do so will make it nearly impossible to reverse course, and it will undoubtedly have a negative effect on future generations of Detroiters.

Under the proposed plan Detroit will reinforce these current standings:

- the city ranked [one of the worst public transportation systems](#) in the country.
- the city where a third of its downtown is underdeveloped parking side lots and structures, [most of any US Metro](#).
- the city with some of the highest traffic incidents and [dangerous intersections in Michigan](#).
  - the city with some of the [worst asthma rates](#) in the country.
  - a city/State solely self-reliant on the throes of a [volatile auto industry](#).
- and lastly a city that for intents and purposes, refuses to learn from its mistakes.

The proposed I-375 project, as it stands, is a plan that shows that we have not learned from our mistakes, that the vision for the city's future still includes a car first and people second approach.



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To present and package a nine-lane raised highway as “reconnecting” is disingenuous, dangerous, and unacceptable. For these reasons, I will vehemently oppose any proposed project that fails to properly reconnect and restore the community. I hope to continue to work with my colleagues and relevant stakeholders to ensure that MDOT provides the best possible proposal to the residents of Detroit.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns – Ramses Dukes,  
[ramses.dukes@detroitmi.gov](mailto:ramses.dukes@detroitmi.gov)