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Press Release:

RE: SB 52

January 18, 2024

My name is Clif Marsiglio. I am representing NESCO, the Near East Side Community Organization, and its nearly 33,000 people are united in our firm opposition to Indiana Senate Bill 52.

Today, I want to talk about the transformative power of dedicated lanes and their positive impact on my community.

The heart of this matter lies in the **Bus Rapid Transit** (BRT) project and its potential hope for blighted areas. It's not just about public transit; it's about revitalizing neighborhoods, creating opportunities, and sparking economic change for the better. Let's be clear: we want what you want -- a neighborhood that stands on its own, where families want to live and can cross the street without fear of injury.

Dedicated lanes give us this.

As anyone can tell you, our roads are not safe. I have faith in our police force, but even they admit they cannot patrol a road that is essentially a high-speed highway right in the middle of our city. *If you want to drive fast, please consider taking Interstate 70.*

Dedicated Lanes Address Reckless Driving.

As we discuss Senate Bill 52, remember the economic transformation dedicated lanes can usher in. Local businesses, cautiously optimistic, see the potential for growth and development. It's a chance to turn blighted areas into thriving hubs of activity, attracting investment, creating jobs. It is hope that can quickly be extinguished by those meddling in communities they do not live in and certainly will not visit.

Dedicated lanes Bring New Economic Development.

Imagine a neighborhood where dedicated lanes aren't just lines on the road but symbols of hope; a community where economic prosperity is not a distant dream but a tangible reality.

Senate Bill 52, with its prohibition on dedicated lanes, threatens to dim this vision. It puts the very upgrades our neighborhoods need at risk. Let us not allow a legislative decision to stand in the way of the positive transformation that dedicated lanes can bring to our community.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the bigger picture—the potential for economic upliftment, community revitalization, and positive change that dedicated lanes represent. Let's stand together with our families and stand against government intervention.

Thank you,

Clif Marsiglio

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