



# LAB Report

## Cleveland, OH



A Shared Vision to Implement TOD  
May-June 2023 MOVE Roundtable

with support from



### Where We Started

Cleveland was originally built to be a transit-oriented and walkable city, but much of the city's urban space also was shaped by the advent of the automobile. Remains of this history linger: wide, multi-lane streets, walkable and mix-used urban form; a hub and spoke transit network. Most structures in the city's neighborhoods are "existing nonconforming," meaning they cannot be rebuilt as they currently exist without zoning variances or discretionary review. In many areas, population density has fallen below the point which high frequency public transit is financially viable. Community engagement around new infill development is often dominated by opposition that stymies projects and makes it difficult to add new housing.

### Opportunity

As the City of Cleveland was drafting a TOD policy, it was a good time to explore a new approach. The Cleveland MOVE Roundtable explored this statement: Walkable, equitable, transit-oriented development is something we all say we want. Implementing these projects is often difficult, tense, and time consuming. Can implementation be easier, faster, and less tense? How can we more effectively communicate our goals and actions to residents and stakeholders? The idea was to create alignment internally in preparation for sharing out ETOD to the broader community in a more unified and intentional way.

### Approach

The Cleveland MOVE Roundtable brought together city, county and transit agency staff. Over the course of 6 weeks, they grappled with real implications of implementation, community engagement, and communications. They heard from peer cities about creating city-transit agency alignment and coordinating ETOD efforts across city departments.

### Outcomes & Next Steps

It's an exciting time for Cleveland TOD efforts: the draft policy is being reviewed and there's a strong cohort of dedicated city, county and transit agency staff who see the promise of what this can bring. It's also a moment of truth, including the realization that implementing ETOD differs depending on the neighborhood and community voice. For next steps, M: PACT suggests that



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– The Cleveland MOVE Roundtable's framing question





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## Outcomes & Next Steps (cont.)

Cleveland: Leverage TOD policy as a springboard for community engagement, identify 1-2 corridors for initial focus to demonstrate scale and success, and pursue unified/coordinated messaging across city, county, and transit agency communications.

Interested in learning more? Contact Sarah Rudolf at [sarahr@mpactmobility.org](mailto:sarahr@mpactmobility.org).



**LAB** Capacity-building and Stakeholder Development

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