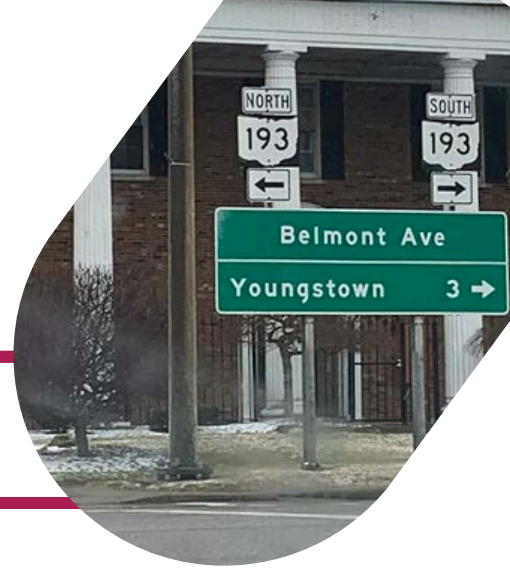




# LAB Report

## Youngstown, OH



Revitalizing an Arterial Corridor  
January-February 2023 MOVE Roundtable

with support from  LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY

### Where We Started

Belmont Avenue, a main thoroughfare from Liberty Township to Youngstown and point of access from I-80, was once a thriving locus of activity. Over the years, many businesses have closed, leaving aging infrastructure, vacant storefronts, and a tired streetscape. Despite this, there remain a number of important assets scattered along the corridor: entertainment venues, the university, the hospital, a small business incubator, and an array of ethnic restaurants renowned by locals.

### Opportunity

Local stakeholders spoke of the opportunity to establish and pursue a vision to make Belmont Avenue a prized gateway into the city, a welcoming and vibrant corridor. *Fast forward 20 or 30 years. Imagine Belmont Avenue is a vibrant street full of activity: people are bustling about, there is a lively retail and restaurant scene, and it's easy to hop on transit to get where you need to go. What does it look like? Who is it for? What needs to happen to make this vision a reality?*

### Approach

The Youngstown MOVE Roundtable was comprised of more than a dozen stakeholders from the Belmont Avenue corridor, chosen because they are already invested in Belmont Avenue's success. This group involved representatives from local and regional government, small business owners, arts and culture organizations, economic development, higher education and healthcare institutions, community focused nonprofits, and planning consultants.

### Outcomes & Next Steps

The Roundtable resulted in: an established coalition of stakeholders representing a diverse range of interests, geographies, and perspectives from Belmont Avenue corridor, "buckets" of action steps to inform future revitalization efforts, the development of a vision statement to use as a foundation for communication across all audiences, the collective acknowledgement that this is a long-haul effort which will require significant and ongoing alignment of both efforts and funding, and a shared commitment to work together to improve Belmont Avenue.



What could we do together to improve Belmont Avenue?

– The Roundtable's central question

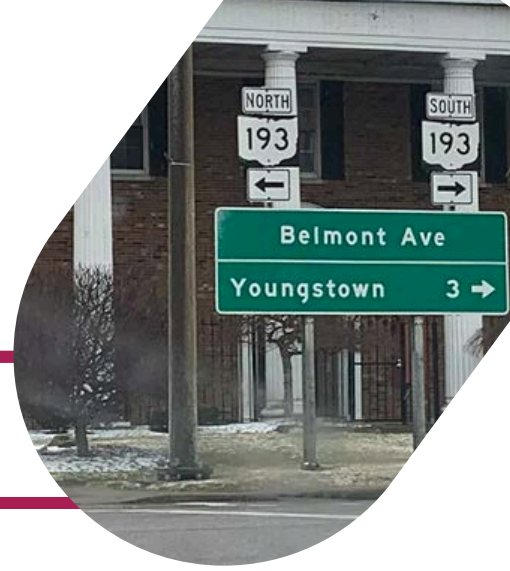
Interested in learning more? Contact Sarah Rudolf at [sarahr@mpactmobility.org](mailto:sarahr@mpactmobility.org).





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## 2024 Status Check

After the MOVE Roundtable, the coalition evolved into “Building a Better Belmont” with a mission to transform Belmont Ave into a destination where everyone belongs. Since their work with M: PACT:LAB, they have hosted two “Bike Belmonts” – community bike rides along the corridor to bring awareness and share about ways for people to get involved with future coalition activities. At their most recent Bike Belmont in May 2024, they had a number of sponsors and partners including businesses along the corridor, a community foundation, the city and more. Over 200 riders attended and chose between two routes. Coalition membership continues to ebb and flow with a core group who is very active. The group aims to thoughtfully add more members and strategically plan future events and activities.

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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