

October 18, 2022

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor, State of Indiana
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

The Arc of Indiana is a state-wide advocacy organization committed to all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) realizing their goals of living, learning, working and fully participating in the community. We are over 30,000 members strong with 46 chapters covering 63 counties throughout the state focused on ensuring people with IDD and their families receive the resources, services and supports they need to live their best life. The combined strength of The Arc at the local, state and national level makes The Arc the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with IDD and their families.

I am writing you today regarding the current I-69 ORX Bridge Project Design Plan. As it currently stands, the plan does not make it possible for cyclists, pedestrians, and people using wheel chairs to safely cross the Ohio River. The Arc of Indiana urges you to take action to revise the plan to make the bridge fully accessible to those who cannot drive and people who would enjoy a day walking, cycling, or wheeling across the bridge.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was landmark legislation to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to the public realm. The ability to travel freely is an important part of accessibility, and the ADA has made considerable progress in making buildings, restrooms, city sidewalks and transit vehicles easier for people with disabilities to use. The ability to safely cross a bridge without a vehicle fits within the ADA's goals. Now is the perfect opportunity to construct the I-69 ORX bridge to be fully accessible.

The Arc of Indiana has appreciated your support of initiatives to help people with IDD live their best lives, including this administration's commitment to people with disabilities through the work of Lt. Governor Crouch and your commitment to Indiana being a state that works for ALL. We now ask that as Indiana's leader, you partner with Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear to create a bridge that will work for all Hoosiers and Kentuckians.

Sincerely,



Kim Dodson
CEO