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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

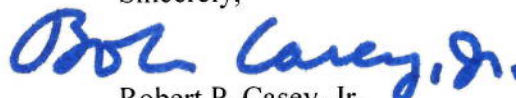
I write today to express my strong support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's (SEA) application for funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER VIII) grant program. This funding will help support SEA's Interstate 579 Cap Urban Connector (I-579 Cap) project.

During the urban renewal efforts in the 1950s, the predominantly African-American Hill District neighborhood located in the City of Pittsburgh was declared blighted, leading to the demolition of more than 95 acres and displacement of 8,000 residents and 413 businesses. In addition, the I-579 Crosstown Boulevard highway was constructed between the Lower Hill District and downtown Pittsburgh, completely severing connectivity between the two neighborhoods and isolating the Hill District residents from access to the economic development gains the City has experienced over the past few decades. The Greater Hill District remains a distressed neighborhood with 17.2% unemployment and 39.2% of residents living below the poverty line.

With grant funding from the TIGER program, and support from local and regional partners, the SEA's I-579 Cap project would reconnect the underserved and disadvantaged Hill District with downtown Pittsburgh and support the mixed-use redevelopment of the 28-acre site of the former Civic Arena. The I-579 Cap structure would span over the Crosstown Boulevard highway, creating a new urban public connector that would create an inviting, accessible route for walking and biking. This Cap will be an independent, standalone structure with surface improvements consisting of ADA pedestrian and bicycle pathways, stormwater management and other sustainable strategies that will create a public urban open space of approximately three acres. The construction of this Cap plays a critical role in the revitalization efforts underway in the community with an anticipated \$379 million in private investment in adjacent developments and infrastructure.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Andrew Usyk on my staff at (202) 224-6324.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator