

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2016

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

Re: TIGER VIII Discretionary Grant, I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

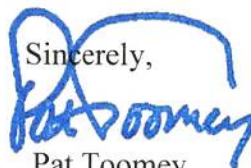
I am pleased to provide this support letter for an application submitted by The Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) for a U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VIII Discretionary Grant.

If awarded, the SEA will move forward with the construction of the I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector (I-579 "Cap"). The "Cap" structure will span the Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard highway creating a new urban public connector that will streamline pedestrian movement and create an inviting accessible route for walking and biking between the Hill District and Downtown. The I-579 "Cap" will be an independent, standalone structure with surface improvements consisting of accessible pathways, stormwater management and other sustainable strategies, which will create a public urban open space of approximately three acres.

SEA is focused on addressing the DOT's ladders of opportunity goals, in addition to transforming the underserved Hill District community and downtown. It is anticipated that the I-579 "Cap" will extend the economic strengths of downtown to the east. Moreover, it will provide a safe connection for pedestrians and bicyclists to connect to a free transit network located in the Downtown / North Shore area. Finally, this project will open a new avenue for the community to grow by establishing a connector between a high economic generator (Downtown) and a disadvantaged neighborhood (Hill District), and it is a top regional project with multi-agency partnerships and related stakeholders.

In order to assist in these efforts with the SEA I-579 "Cap" project, I respectfully request that you give their application all due consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
United States Senator