

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 28, 2016

Mr. Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Foxx,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's (SEA) application to the FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant program offered by the US Department of Transportation.

SEA will use funds from the TIGER grant program to assist with the I-579 Cap Urban Connector project. The "cap" project will be an urban connector which will improve access to multi-modal transportation options by creating a safe and accessible connection for walking and biking for pedestrians traveling into the Downtown section of the City of Pittsburgh. The "cap" project will be an independent and stand-alone structure that will span over top of Interstate 579. This will serve as a vital connection between the Hill District, a historically economically distressed and underserved community, and Downtown Pittsburgh, the center for employment, education, and critical services. If completed, this project will allow pedestrians and bicyclists a safe connection, via the Hill District, to a free transit network in the Downtown and North Shore districts of the city. Historically, I-579 has always served as physical and psychological barrier between the economically prosperous Downtown Districts and the economically depressed Hill District. The "cap" project will remove this barrier and open a new avenue for the Hill District's community and economy to grow and prosper. The "cap" project will provide a vital piece of infrastructure that will support recent redevelopment, such as the Energy Innovation Center, and encourage continued development of this key section of the City. Due to the importance of the "cap" project, SEA has already secured multi-agency partnerships and stakeholders. If awarded funding through this program, SEA will be able to complete this vital development and, thus, greatly improve the infrastructure and economy of, not only the Downtown and Hill Districts in the City of Pittsburgh, but our community at large.

I respectfully request that you give SEA's TIGER Grant application all due care and consideration. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Ross Township Office at (412)837-1361.

Sincerely,

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Keith J. Rothfus

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Member of Congress

KR/jh