



# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

*Office of Mayor William Peduto*

April 26, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the application of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for the FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant for the I-579 “Cap” Urban Connector Project. This project will create a public, open-space connector for pedestrians between our City’s burgeoning Central Business District and the neighborhood of the Hill District. The creation of a “Cap” over I-579 will result in an open space that utilizes green infrastructure strategies for stormwater diversion, and that will mitigate noise and heat island effects. This project is an incredible opportunity to connect our City together and build ladders of opportunity.

This Cap project has the potential to be a transformative feature of a neighborhood. Since its construction in the 1950s, I-579 has severed the link between Downtown Pittsburgh and the Hill District, once a storied and vibrant neighborhood. The decades of isolation and disinvestment have led to a community that has lost 80% of its peak population, and over 40% of its residents are living in poverty. The Cap will help residents of the Hill District connect to centers of employment and education and will be the keystone of a neighborhood redevelopment.

Thanks to the growth of our City, we are at the fulcrum point of a massive redevelopment effort in and around the Hill District, resulting in an expected \$379 million in private investment. The “Cap” project will connect that rebuilding community with the Golden Triangle, a downtown that is the economic engine of a thirty-county region.

This project has support from community leaders, businesses, and elected representatives at every level of government. I urge you to support the I-579 Cap Urban Connector Project in the FY2016 TIGER process.

Sincerely,

William Peduto  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh