

3 Rivers Wet Weather



Improving our region's water quality

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April 13, 2016

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

**RE: FY2015 TIGER Discretionary Grant
I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) would like to express its support for The Sports & Exhibition Authority (SEA) of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for their I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project. The SEA is requesting TIGER VII funds.

Of particular interest to 3RWW and aligning with our mission to reduce sewer overflows and improve water quality, are the sustainable stormwater management features that have been incorporated into this project, including capturing the majority of stormwater on the site. Plants and trees will be native or adapted, and the new open space will add to the City's urban forest cover, contribute to the reduction of urban heat island effects, and mitigate noise.

This green space project is in a very central and visible location that will help to reconnect people from the Hill District, a historically distressed neighborhood, to centers of employment, education and essential services in the City. As this new urban public connector will be designed to simplify pedestrian movement and will create an inviting, accessible route for walking and biking between the Hill District and Downtown, it also serves as the perfect site to model stormwater best management practices and environmental sustainability methods for residents and visitors of Pittsburgh.

3RWW served as an active participant in the Advisory Group for Sustainable Development for Water for the Lower Hill site in 2011-2012. Therefore, we are extremely pleased to see that SEA is now seeking funding to implement the good work that was done to develop the best sustainable stormwater solutions for this site. I hope that you see the merit in this project and fund them to the greatest extent feasible.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Schombert

