



April 20, 2016

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

**RE: FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant
I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

ACTION-Housing is offering its enthusiastic support of the FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant ("FY2016 TIGER") application for the I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project submitted by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County ("SEA").

ACTION-Housing is a 58-year old non-profit affordable housing developer in the Pittsburgh region and has several housing projects close to the target area of the proposed TIGER Grant. We currently have 90 apartments completed and another 20 houses and apartments in development, all targeting households with incomes below 60% Area Median Income. Almost all of our tenants work; the others have special needs, such as sight, hearing or physical disabilities that require supportive services to live independently. In all cases, the development of the "cap" project will offer a substantial improvement to the quality of life they are building in this section of the City.

We regularly look for development sites where our tenants have access to good public transportation, bike routes and walking paths allowing them to live without the cost of private car ownership. Ready access to job and education centers is key to helping low income individuals build stronger lives and greater independence. While you may have other proposals that are larger and serve more individuals, you will be hard pressed to find another proposal that has the potential for such a significant impact on a low-income community as SEA's project in the Hill District community of Pittsburgh.

This project will go a long way to eliminating the "no man's land" created when a major highway was designed to run through a disadvantaged residential community. Whether you call it a park, a connector or simply a "cap," this project will help to heal the disconnection that was created when the highway was originally built.

We are in full support of the I-579 "Cap" project and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of the FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant application.

Sincerely,


Lawrence A. Swanson
Executive Director