



June 1, 2015

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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,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's application for an FY2015 TIGER Discretionary Grant for a vital project in our region. The SEA is requesting TIGER VII funds to help pay for construction costs of I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector (I-579 "Cap").

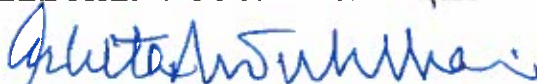
The "Cap" structure will span over the Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard highway creating a new urban public connector that will simplify pedestrian movement and will create an inviting, accessible route for walking and biking between the Hill District and Downtown. This will be an independent, standalone structure with surface improvements consisting of ADA pedestrian and bicycle pathways, stormwater management and other sustainable strategies, landscaping and other fixed site components that will create a public urban open space of approximately three acres.

This project will reconnect the underserved and disadvantaged Lower Hill District with downtown Pittsburgh, and it is a critical piece to support the new, mixed-use redevelopment of the 28-acre site of the former Civic Arena. The I-579 "Cap" will utilize green infrastructure strategies, including capturing the majority of stormwater on the site; which, as Executive Director of the Region's wastewater treatment facility, is of particular interest to me and our Board of Directors.

The project will open a new avenue for the community to grow and prosper by establishing a connector between a high economic generator and a disadvantaged neighborhood. I am proud to stand with other agencies and stakeholders in the region supporting such a tremendous project.

Sincerely,

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY



Arletta Scott Williams
Executive Director