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April 8, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As executive director of the bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization, Bike Pittsburgh, I am writing to express Bike Pittsburgh's support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's (SEA) application for a FY2015 TIGER Discretionary Grant to help pay for construction costs of the "cap" that will span I-579 and connect Downtown to the Hill District, creating a much-needed safe pedestrian/bicycle connection, transit connection, and green space.

The infrastructure improvements strongly align with our mission and with US DOT's priorities by creating non-motorized and public transportation choices needed to connect lower-income people from a historically distressed neighborhood to centers of employment, education and essential services. At the same time, the "Cap" will also support the new, mixed-use redevelopment on the site of the former Civic Arena.

I-579 Crosstown Boulevard has been a physical barrier between the Hill District and Downtown for over 50 years. The "Cap" over the interstate highway will overcome this barrier and make what is now an unsafe and unpleasant crossing for pedestrians into three acres of beautiful urban open space that will give pedestrians and bicycle riders access to the City's central business district and the Lower Hill.

The "Cap" is a top regional project with many partners, and Bike Pittsburgh is pleased to support it.

Sincerely,

Scott Bricker  
Executive Director