



April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh's (SEA's) and Allegheny County's FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant application for the construction of the I-597 "Cap" Urban Connector project. As part of the larger Lower Hill redevelopment project, the "Cap" represents a key opportunity for a growing Pittsburgh region. This key project will provide a vital foundation to connecting the region's cultural, economic and educational resources.

As a significant stakeholder in the neighborhood for more than 138 years, Duquesne University has been a proud partner in our City's progress. The "Cap" Urban Connector project comes at a time when complementary investments have been made by the University, as well as the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Penguins, UPMC Mercy and many others. The project will help to leverage these investments and to connect residents of a historically distressed neighborhood to centers of education, employment and essential services.

Final designs of the "Cap" structure are in progress, thanks to a previous TIGER grant for planning purposes. The structure will span over I-579 Crosstown Boulevard highway creating a new urban public connector that will enhance safety, accessibility and mobility between the Hill District and Downtown. The surface improvements and sustainable strategies associated with this project will create a public open space of approximately three (3) acres in our urban neighborhood.

Duquesne University supports the SEA/County application for TIGER Grant funding for the "Cap" Urban Connector project. We appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Dougherty".

Charles J. Dougherty  
President

rjs