



525 William Penn Place, 25th Floor
Pittsburgh PA 15259
Tel + 1 412 208 1400 fax +1 412 208 8244

April 5th, 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,

The Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) is submitting an application for a FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant (“TIGER VIII”). The SEA is requesting TIGER VIII 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 project will reconnect the underserved and disadvantaged Lower Hill District with downtown Pittsburgh, and it’s a critical piece to support the new, mixed-use redevelopment of the 28-acre site of the former civic arena. Important redevelopment is taking place in the vicinity –Clayco Development Building, Energy Innovation Center, McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS) Residential Development and others. It is expected that \$379 million in private investment in adjacent development as the “Cap” and the other infrastructure is in place. The “Cap” project will help keep that momentum going and increase its impact in the City and the Hill District.

The “Cap” project will be a critical component in a cohesive corridor between Downtown and Oakland, two large centers of employment, education and essential services. This project will be transformative for the underserved Hill District community and downtown. The I-579 “Cap” will extend the economic strengths of downtown to the east.

As a top Real Estate Service Provider in the region, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) is in full agreement that the “Cap” will be an extremely important asset to the City of Pittsburgh and the growth and development into the greater Hill District community. We have heard from numerous potential users that their decision to locate to this site is critically dependent on the certainty of the “Cap” project moving forward..

JLL recognizes that The I-579 "Cap" project is top regional project and we are excited to see this project move forward and truly be a catalyst to the success of the City and to the success of the region as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. C. Bell", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Managing Director
412.208.2040