



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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:

Please accept this letter of support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority's FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant application. The I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project is an important piece of the region's continuing revitalization story.

The I-579 "Cap" is a multi-agency initiative that will connect Pittsburgh's central business district with the historically underserved Hill District community. This conduit between the economic generator that is downtown and its bordering low-income neighborhood will provide greater opportunities for economic growth. Additionally, the enhanced physical connection will increase mobility between unique cultural and historic resources in both communities, and the pedestrian, bicycle, and recreational space will promote healthy urban living.

This project has steadily progressed since last year's TIGER application. The Sports & Exhibition Authority completed preliminary engineering and is now in the final design phase. The agency has worked diligently to host public community meetings and solicit public input.

In 2013, the Commonwealth awarded a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant for the Lower Hill roadway and related infrastructure work, which includes a new, mixed use development in addition to the I-579 "Cap". Approximately \$3.4 million of this funding will be used as a local match for the I-579 "Cap" TIGER grant.

The Commonwealth supports the I-579 "Cap" project and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of the FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant application.

Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Davin".

Dennis M. Davin, Secretary
Department of Community and Economic Development