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April 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: TIGER VIII Discretionary Grant; I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project; Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, as well as the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, I strongly support the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's application for a \$20 million FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant ("TIGER VIII") to assist with the cost of the construction of the I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector (I-579 "Cap") in the Lower Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

As part of urban renewal in the 1950s, the Hill District, then a predominantly African American community was declared blighted; 95 acres were demolished and 8,000 people and 413 businesses were displaced. During this period, the I-579 Crosstown Boulevard highway was constructed between the Lower Hill District and Downtown Pittsburgh, further severing the link between the two neighborhoods. It remains a physical and psychological barrier to this day.

This project will reconnect the underserved and disadvantaged Lower Hill District with Downtown. It is a critical piece to support the new, mixed-use redevelopment of the 28-acre site of the former Civic Arena.

This project strongly aligns with U.S. DOT's priorities and "ladders of opportunity" by creating: i) new and safe connections needed to reconnect people in an historically distressed neighborhood (Hill District) to centers of employment, education, and essential services (Downtown Central Business District); ii) promote workforce development; and iii) contribute to community revitalization. The project will open a new avenue for the community to grow and prosper by establishing a connector between a high economic generator, Downtown, and a disadvantaged neighborhood, the Lower Hill District.

The I-579 "Cap" project is a top regional project with multi-agency partnerships and related stakeholders. We appreciate and thank you for your consideration of this important TIGER VIII application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Hurley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert D. Hurley
Director

AMO/mac