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

April 8, 2016

Re: FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant / I-579 Cap Urban Connector Project

Dear Secretary Foxx,

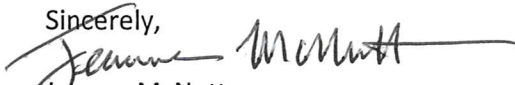
Representing Uptown, a neighborhood of the Greater Hill District, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) in its application for a FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant (TIGER VIII).

Requested TIGER VIII funds will help provide the missing link between the Hill District and Downtown, allowing for a seamless, accessible connection for pedestrians and cyclists and, as importantly, providing equity to the disenfranchised Hill community--long hindered by undelivered revitalization promises of the '50s and '60s. Equity will be realized by extending to the Hill District a pathway to the economic opportunities and resources of Downtown as well as the healthy, green, and sustainable benefits of the Cap design itself.

The Cap project builds on the Lower Hill's bold development, including architectural design by the internationally renown Bjarke Ingles Group and exciting community-driven land use planning for Centre Avenue—which will create a dynamic tie to the robust Eds and Meds center of Oakland. It also leverages the goals of the new Uptown EcoInnovation District, a collaborative, holistic, sustainable and equitable approach to Uptown's revitalization, driven by the City of Pittsburgh with a recent commitment of \$1.4 million and significant planning support, and buy-in of Uptown's strong anchor institutions of UPMC Mercy, Duquesne University and the Consol Energy Center, the County, and Uptown residents and business stakeholders. The Uptown EcoInnovation District will be the first ecodistrict in the City, a replicable public/private partnership that will result in a roadmap to accelerate sustainable high-impact development from the 'inside out'. The actualization of the Hill District Cap project embraces many of Uptown's eco-district priorities, such as accessibility, stormwater maintenance, reduction of urban heat island effects...and benefits that serve all.

After years of disinvestment, the greater Hill community is prime for this exciting infrastructure project, which will also yield regional positive impact. On behalf of Uptown, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne McNutt
Executive Director