

April 19, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant
I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of VisitPITTSBURGH, Allegheny County's official tourism promotion agency, we support the request by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County for federal funds to help pay for construction costs of the I-579 "Cap" Urban Connector.

The Cap Project will be transformative for the underserved Hill District community and provide an avenue to grow and prosper by establishing a crucial connector to and from Downtown. It will also simplify pedestrian movement by creating an accessible route for walking and biking between the Hill District and Downtown.

It is also important that business development continues to expand outward from our downtown area to provide additional job opportunities to our residents and enhance our local visitors and tourism industry that already accounts for more than 40,000 jobs.

Finally, Pittsburgh's revitalization efforts have received national and international recognition for its incredible transformation. Much of that recognition, which ultimately leads to additional business, conventions and tourism for Allegheny County, has to do with the upkeep of our parks and creation of green spaces. In addition to providing a corridor between the Hill District and Downtown – and being an important part of the cohesive corridor between Downtown and Oakland – the Cap Project will utilize green infrastructure strategies, including capturing the majority of storm water on the site. Plants and trees will be native or adapted, and this new open space will be another welcome addition to the city's urban forest cover.

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Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County application for a 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant.

Sincerely,



Craig T. Davis
President and CEO