



April 21, 2014

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The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant
Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

ALCOSAN is endeavoring to advance green infrastructure application throughout our service area. The Sports & Exhibition Authority (SEA) of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County is currently working on a site in the uptown area of the City of Pittsburgh.

The SEA is submitting an application for a FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant. The TIGER VI grant would help to fund (i) construction of a portion of a new urban street grid (roads, sidewalks, street lighting, stormwater planters, and storm, sewage and water utility lines) for the 28-acre site, (ii) improvements to surrounding roads of Centre Avenue, Bedford Avenue, Crawford Street and Washington Place, and (iii) the final design of a "cap" over Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard.

The City's sewer system is primarily composed of combined sewers, which means that stormwater and sewage are carried in a single pipe. As little as one-tenth of an inch of rain (an average Pittsburgh rainfall is one-quarter inch) can create combined sewer overflows, which is when raw sewage overflows into our rivers and streams.

The traditional sewage systems that consist of miles of underground pipe are known as gray infrastructure. Green infrastructure can assist by retaining the water and reducing inflows, keeping the storm water out of the combined system. This project will include both traditional infrastructure improvements and green infrastructure solutions to help reduce CSOs.

Green infrastructure will be part of the Project and the development itself will manage storm water by applying innovative solutions such as storm water planters, permeable paving, rain gardens, green roofs and other storm water retention methods.

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The storm water planters will mimic the natural infiltration process in a controlled way that is both functional and sculptural and will be designed to capture the first flush (1.2 inches) of storm water that hits the streets and sidewalks.

Street plantings are a large component of Pittsburgh's urban forest and will be a part the infrastructure project. The plants selected will require low maintenance, be salt and pollution tolerant, and offer a variety of form, textures and colors providing interest for pedestrian traffic. The plantings are a crucial part of the green infrastructure by reducing runoff due to evapotranspiration processes.

These Green Infrastructure improvements will benefit the water quality in the City of Pittsburgh and will reduce flow to ALCOSAN. We would like to offer this letter of support for this very important project.

Sincerely,

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY



Arletta Scott Williams
Executive Director

cc: Jan Oliver, Director of Regional Conveyance
Mike Lichte, Manager of Planning