

11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1312

T: 412.392.4555

F: 412.392.1040

AlleghenyConference.org

April 16, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development (Conference) offers support to the efforts of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) to secure a FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant for assistance in the redevelopment of a 28-acre site located in the City of Pittsburgh's Hill District. A portion of the project is currently underway, and the grant will be used as gap funding to complete the remaining project elements.

The Conference and its Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work together to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Conference combines strong private sector leadership with commitment from public sector partners, enabling us to create a more competitive business climate and market the Pittsburgh region for investment, job creation and top talent. To this end, the Conference is actively engaged in the redevelopment of the 28-acre site in the Hill District. The grant would facilitate construction of an urban street grid, help improve surrounding roads and initiate design of a cover, or “cap,” over Interstate 579, which has historically acted as an artificial barrier to development in this neighborhood.

The proposed infrastructure improvements will reconnect the Hill District to the Central Business District of Pittsburgh and create traditional urban blocks for development. The program is anticipated to provide significant economic impact, attracting private investment of over \$379 million; creating approximately 4,000 jobs during construction and approximately 3,000 permanent jobs when completed; establishing multi-modal options of transit and pedestrian-friendly choices; and providing over 600,000 square feet of Class A office space, over 250,000 square feet of commercial space, a 150-room hotel, 2.8 acres of urban green space and over 1,190 residential units. When completed, the project will seek an LEED for Neighborhood Development certification, which proves its commitment to providing a sustainable, lasting impact in the Hill District.

The City of Pittsburgh's 28 acres is a strategic development site for the Pittsburgh region, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny Conference. The site is critical to the continued growth of the region, and the TIGER Grant is vital to its continued redevelopment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Yablonsky".

Dennis Yablonsky

CEO

Allegheny Conference on Community Development