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4/23/14

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:

As executive director of the bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization, Bike Pittsburgh, I am writing to express Bike Pittsburgh's support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's (SEA) application for a FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant.

The TIGER VI grant would fund three things 1. help to fund the construction of a portion of a new multimodal urban street grid (roads, sidewalks, street lighting, stormwater planters, and storm, sewage and water utility lines) for the 28-acre site, 2. improvements to surrounding roads of Centre Avenue, Bedford Avenue, Crawford Street and Washington Place, 3. streetscape improvements to Fifth, Washington Place and Crawford & Pride Street and 4. the final design of a pedestrian and bike-friendly "cap" over Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard.

The infrastructure improvements strongly align our mission and with US DOT's priorities by creating multi-modal choices (i.e. new pedestrian connections, enhanced bus routes, shared and dedicated bike paths, connections to light-rail transit station and possible future BRT) needed to connect people from a historically distressed neighborhood to centers of employment, education and essential services.

I-579 Crosstown Boulevard has been a physical barrier between the Hill District and Downtown for over 50 years. Funding will provide for final design of a "cap" over the interstate highway, which will eventually reconnect the 28-acre site to Downtown when constructed. The "cap" will provide urban open space, opportunities for development, and pedestrian and bike-friendly access to the City's central business district.

The planned infrastructure improvements will support the redevelopment of a 28 acre site located in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. The development program is anticipated to have a significant economic impact on the region.

Sincerely,

Scott Bricker
Executive Director