



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

Office of Mayor William Peduto

April 25, 2014

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

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) is submitting an application for a FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant. This application and the infrastructure project that it would support is a high priority for the City and this letter is to advise you of our support. The TIGER VI grant would be used to provide funding for (i) construction of the new urban street grid (roads, sidewalks, street lighting, stormwater planters, and storm, sewage and water utility lines) for the 28-acre Lower Hill Redevelopment site that is located in the City of Pittsburgh and in Allegheny County, (ii) improvements to surrounding roads of Centre Avenue, Bedford Avenue, Crawford Street and Washington Place, (iii) streetscape improvements to Fifth Avenue, Washington Place, Crawford Street and Pride Street, and (iv) the final design of a “cap” over Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard. A portion of this work is currently underway. TIGER VI funds will be used as gap funding to complete the remaining elements.

The infrastructure improvements strongly align with US DOT’s priorities and “ladders of opportunity” 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. The funding request will provide for final design of a “cap” over the interstate highway which would reconnect the 28-acre 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.

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The infrastructure project will support a mixed-use redevelopment program at the Lower Hill Redevelopment site is anticipated to have a significant economic impact on the region. It is anticipated that the development will create approximately 4,000 jobs during construction and approximately 3,000 permanent jobs when fully built-out. It is anticipated to attract private investment of over \$379 million, and provide 606,000 sq. ft. of Class A office space, over 254,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, a 150-room hotel, a 2.8 acres of urban open green space, and 1,191 residential units. The program is anticipated to help to spur further development, create jobs and provide added investment in the Greater Hill District. It is intended that the infrastructure and development will earn a LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) certification and that most buildings will be LEED certified buildings.

The City will take appropriate actions to bring this project to fruition. It will take all necessary steps to make the existing City streets and right-of-way available as needed and will direct City departments to take appropriate actions as efficiently and timely as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Peduto', written over a faint rectangular stamp.

William Peduto
Mayor