



March 31, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

RE: TIGER VI Discretionary Grant  
Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project, Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Green Building Alliance (GBA) would like to express our strong support for the Lower Hill Infrastructure Project proposal submitted by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) for a FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant on behalf of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Located on a prime and very visible 28-acre site immediately contiguous to Downtown in the Hill District neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh, the Lower Hill project is integral to both the city's and overall region's success and can have significant economic, environmental, and social impacts. GBA has had planning discussions with SEA about this opportunity as far back as 2007, first with respect to the adjacent Consol Energy Center arena development and then subsequently including the Pittsburgh Penguins—even serving on their Sustainability Stakeholders Group during its 2011-2012 duration.

As a nonprofit organization, GBA inspires the creation of healthy, high-performing places for everyone by providing leadership that connects knowledge, transformative ideas, and collaborative action. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, GBA was founded in 1993 and is a chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). In 21 years of local and national green building work, our strength lies in our leadership, partnerships, and ability to identify strategic programs and projects. As such, GBA applauds the Penguins for committing the Lower Hill redevelopment site to the pursuit of both LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) certification AND GBA's Pittsburgh 2030 District goal of a 50% reduction of baseline transportation emissions by the year 2030. The Penguins' commitments to LEED-certified buildings, LEED-ND, and the Pittsburgh 2030 District demonstrate positive sustainable activities on the Lower Hill site as they implement the overall plan. GBA looks forward to engaging further in that process throughout the project's duration.

Installing infrastructure necessary to start the Lower Hill redevelopment project will create the backbone necessary for larger project goals to be achieved, including a new street grid, surrounding road improvements, and—eventually—creating what could be the crowning glory of this site: a cap over the I-579 Crosstown Boulevard that will reconnect the Hill District neighborhood with Downtown, adding an acre of new urban space over an existing freeway trench and highway interchange tangle that supports the 28-acre site's redevelopment and creates physical community connections.

As supporters, advocates, and promoters of healthy, high-performing, and sustainable activities throughout Western PA, GBA is extremely supportive of the innovative sustainability initiatives planned for the Lower Hill Redevelopment project, which touch on aspects such as innovative street lighting standards, integration of green infrastructure solutions, and a possible on-site cogeneration plant that would supply more efficient heating, cooling, and power to individual buildings. The first step in making this dream a reality is the infrastructure piece addressed by SEA's TIGER VI proposal. Based on our many years of experience, we highly recommend the Lower Hill Infrastructure Project for a TIGER VI grant. There is currently great momentum for Lower Hill redevelopment efforts and this funding would prove extremely timely and critical for the opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Schiller, LEED Green Associate, CEO  
mikes@gbapgh.org

**GREEN BUILDING ALLIANCE**  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 331  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 431-0709, info@gbapgh.org  
WWW.GO-GBA.ORG