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April 24, 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 Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to convey my support of the FY 2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant Application for the Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project submitted by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny (SEA).

The TIGER VI grant would help to fund construction of a portion of a new urban street grid for the 28-acre site, improvements to surrounding roads, and the final design of a “cap” over Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard.

The Project is located in the Lower Hill District neighborhood that was demolished as part of a failed urban renewal effort of the 1950s. Providing the street grid and improvements to the surrounding roads will reconnect the Hill District with Downtown and create an opportunity for a healthy and sustainable development within the Hill District neighborhood.

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. 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.

I fully support this high priority project and respectfully request your favorable consideration of the TIGER Discretionary Grant Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Hall-Russell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cheryl Hall-Russell
President & CEO