



Pittsburgh Climate Initiative
Working Together for a Sustainable Future

April 23, 2014

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 the co-convener of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative, it is my pleasure to write this letter regarding the proposal from the Sports and Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA).

The Pittsburgh Climate Initiative (PCI) is a collaborative established in 2008 that is tasked with implementing and updating the *Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan (PCAP)*. The most recent update to the plan was adopted by the City of Pittsburgh as a guiding document in February 2012. Our partners represent four distinct sectors of Pittsburgh—Community, Government, Business, and Higher Education.

The project proposed by the SEA helps to satisfy several of the recommendations included in the *PCAP*. Most significantly, it would help to implement *Transportation Recommendation 6: Provide Community Support to Projects that Encourage Smart Growth*. The proposed project exhibits a “fix it first” emphasis, focused on the urban core, which is a key tenet of Smart Growth principles. By redeveloping this large parcel, the SEA has an opportunity to revitalize part of the urban core, combatting further development of green fields in the suburbs.

The project also supports several recommendations under the “Transportation” sector, as the proposed improvements to the surrounding streets and sidewalks will improve opportunities for non-motorized transportation and facilitate access to public transportation for this section of the city. The proposed plans also support several recommendations in the plan related to green space and tree planting.

Finally, the innovative green infrastructure plans included in the project proposal will help Pittsburgh to prepare for the expected changes to our weather associated with climate change, which include greater incidence of severe precipitation events. This project provides a significant opportunity to demonstrate the use of extensive green infrastructure features in such a prominent, public redevelopment project that could have ramifications for the entire region.

Pittsburgh Climate Initiative is committed to helping the proposed project succeed and to promoting its success through our existing networks. Please feel free to reach me at lbaxter@pecpa.org or 412-481-9400 if I can provide additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Baxter', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Lindsay A. Baxter

Co-Convener

Pittsburgh Climate Initiative