



April 25, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
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**RE: FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant
Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am pleased to provide this letter supporting 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 County (SEA). We wish to convey to you our highest level of support for, and urge your approval of, this application.

The planned 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. Funding will also be used for final design of a "cap" over Interstate-579 Crosstown Boulevard, a physical barrier between the Hill District neighborhood and Downtown Pittsburgh. The "cap" will provide urban open space and pedestrian and bike-friendly access to and from the region's central business district.

These improvements will support the redevelopment of a 28-acre development site located in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and assist in reducing existing barriers between the site and Downtown Pittsburgh. The development program is anticipated to have a significant economic impact on the region by creating approximately 4,000 construction jobs and approximately 3,000 permanent jobs when completed. Private investment is projected at \$379 million, creating 606,000 square feet of Class A office space, over 254,000 square feet of commercial space, 1,191 residential units, and 2.8 acres of urban open green space. A portion of the project is currently underway and TIGER VI funds will be used as gap funding to complete the remaining elements.

The program is anticipated to help to spur further development, create jobs, and provide added investment in the Greater Downtown and the Hill District. We appreciate your support of this transformative project and urge its positive review and recommendation for funding.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Waldrup
President and CEO