

THE PITTSBURGH WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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April 24, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: TIGER VI Discretionary Grant
Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure, Capital and Planning Efforts**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to convey the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's (PWSA) support for the FY 2014 TIGER VI grant request submitted by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) which will be used for capital and planning efforts for the Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project located in Pittsburgh, PA.

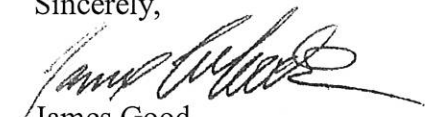
In this location, Pittsburgh's sewer system is primarily composed of combined sewers, which means that stormwater and sewage are conveyed in a single pipe. During heavy rain events, excess water can overload the sewage system resulting in untreated sewage flowing into our streams and rivers. This is known as a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). The P.A. Department of Environmental Protection is now requiring all municipalities to reduce CSOs, which will improve water quality. This is essential for quality of life, along with outdoor activities like swimming, boating, fishing, and aquatic life.

The Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project (1) will commit to separate storm sewer and sewage lines in Centre Avenue (where the line is currently a combined line), and (2) will provide stormwater planters to capture rain runoff from the streets and sidewalks. By capturing and conveying separate stormwater at its site of origin, excess water is prevented from entering the combined sewer systems. Furthermore, this will help reduce overflows that would take place in a combined sewer, and the significant costs that are associated with repair.

These sewer improvements are not the only benefit to the project. The application would help to fund (1) construction for a portion of a new urban street grid (roads, sidewalks, street lighting, stormwater planters, and other utilities) for the 28-acre site, (2) improvements to surrounding roads of Centre Avenue, Bedford Avenue, Crawford Street and Washington Place, (3) streetscape improvements to Fifth Avenue, Washington Place, Crawford and Pride Streets, and (4) the final design of a "cap" over Interstate 579 Crosstown Boulevard. These improvements will not only improve the region's water quality, but also reconnect the Lower Hill Neighborhood to downtown Pittsburgh, facilitating the flow of foot traffic and reconnecting an underserved community to the region's central employment district. We therefore respectfully request your

consideration and favorable review of this application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



James Good
Interim Executive Director

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