



ELLEN M. MCLEAN
Chief Executive Officer

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April 25, 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,

Port Authority of Allegheny County currently operates an extensive transit network centered on the City of Pittsburgh. We currently operate three bus routes through the Lower Hill redevelopment area, and in partnership with 40 other stakeholders, are planning a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system through the project area along Fifth Avenue. These existing Hill District routes provide critical linkages for Hill District residents to educational and employment opportunities as well as medical services and shopping in Downtown Pittsburgh, Oakland and the Centre Avenue Corridor. Although the BRT alignment has not yet been finalized, the intent is for these existing Hill District routes to be integrated into the BRT system.

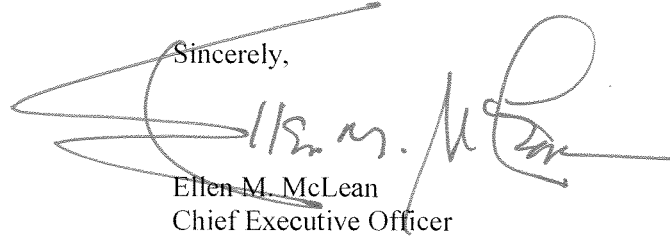
The proposed BRT project will dramatically improve operations in one of the busiest transit corridors in Southwestern Pennsylvania and potentially catalyze new development and redevelopment in the Downtown/Oakland/East End Corridor. The BRT investment has the potential to benefit the redevelopment through enhancing transit access to and from the site.

In addition to the existing and proposed new bus services, the redevelopment area is also within walking distance of the Steel Plaza T Station which provides access to Port Authority's light rail system linking Downtown Pittsburgh with the North Shore, Pittsburgh's southern neighborhoods and Allegheny County's southern suburbs.

The proposed Lower Hill redevelopment has the potential to significantly enhance transit usage in this area and will enhance the existing bus routes that connect Downtown and Oakland to this area. A transit-oriented development at this location will replace parking lots which currently generate no transit ridership with a dense neighborhood with significant levels of activity. The proposed street grid is an important element of this transit-oriented development. The sidewalks and short blocks will create a walking network with convenient access to transit stops and stations. The new streets may present an opportunity for transit to serve the development directly, rather than just along the periphery. Improvements to the peripheral streets, particularly Washington Place, may also allow for direct connections between Port Authority's express options on the I-279 HOV lane and the BRT corridor, and may allow for improved stations to provide enhanced amenities for transit riders.

Due to the Lower Hill's convenient proximity to Port Authority's transit stops and stations, the light rail system, and the proposed BRT system, the Lower Hill infrastructure will enhance multi-modal choices to connect people to various centers of employment, education and other essential services. Port Authority supports the application by the Sports and Exhibition Authority for a TIGER VI grant for the project, as this infrastructure will improve transit service and provide choices and connections to users in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen M. McLean". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ellen M. McLean
Chief Executive Officer

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