



Uptown Partners
of Pittsburgh

Suite 1000, 710 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412.325.2723

www.uptownpartners.org

April 16, 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,

Representing Uptown, a neighborhood of the Greater Hill District, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) in its application for a FY2014 Discretionary Grant.

The TIGER VI funds requested are an early essential step toward the rebirth of the Hill District, and the Lower Hill District, specifically. Thoughtful infrastructure plans and their implementation will also have a catalytic impact on Uptown's own emerging revitalization, as our borders share the edge of the 28-acre development site. The anticipated thousands of jobs resulting from the project's construction and build-out, alone, promise to build wealth in the region...and hopefully, to the Hill District.

We welcome the direct connectivity that the TIGER grant can actualize through infrastructure improvements, particularly mobility, from the Hill to Downtown—which will contribute greatly to this low-income neighborhood's access to good job opportunities within our thriving downtown business district. (We also see this as an opportunity for the Pittsburgh Penguins and SEA to pursue better connections between Uptown and the Hill —such as the proposed "Curtain Call/Pittsburgh Garden Passage", a cultural and sustainable rain garden along the western side of the Consol Energy Center, which would link Centre Avenue to Fifth Avenue and Duquesne University and UPMC Mercy Hospital, also rich employment sources.)

We applaud the friendly 'complete streets' and green approach of the infrastructure and development project, which is compatible with both the Greater Hill District Master Plan and the Uptown Vision Plan...and encourage planners, to the best of their abilities, to comply with more critical principles in the Master Plan, such as housing and non-displacement strategies, as the site is developed.

After years of disinvestment in this significant segment of the Hill District, the community is deserving of and ready for the benefits that this exciting redevelopment infrastructure project can provide when appropriately funded and implemented. On behalf of Uptown, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McNutt
Executive Director