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April 27, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FY2015 TIGER Discretionary Grant
I-579 “Cap” Urban Connector Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work together to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in the Pittsburgh region. On behalf of the Allegheny Conference, I am writing to express our full support for the application for the Fiscal Year 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant submitted by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

The requested funding will support a key piece of the redevelopment of a 28 acre site located in the Lower Hill District, a disadvantaged neighborhood adjacent to Pittsburgh’s Downtown. Specifically, the grant will facilitate the construction of the I-579 “Cap” Urban Connector (I-579 Cap). The I-579 Cap will reconnect the Lower Hill and Downtown by creating an urban park over a below-grade interstate highway. The structure will combine greenspace improvements with ADA sidewalk accessibility, pedestrian and bicycle pathways, stormwater management and other sustainable strategies in a public, open space of approximately three acres.

Because of the vision for this development, important projects are already taking place on and around the site. The Energy Innovation Center, a six-acre urban complex near the site, recently opened its doors to promote energy-sector research and innovation. And in total, we expect more than \$300 million in private investment in adjacent developments. This project will help maintain this momentum and increase the impact in Downtown Pittsburgh, the Hill District, and throughout the Pittsburgh region. Furthermore, the project advances the three principles of “Ladders of Opportunity” by creating jobs, reconnecting a disadvantaged neighborhood to

employment and other services, and revitalizing a neighborhood harmed by the urban planning decisions of the past.

For these reasons, this project is a top priority for the Pittsburgh region, and the opportunity afforded by the TIGER Grant is essential to realizing the full potential of the site. On behalf of the Allegheny Conference, I ask that you and the Department of Transportation support this application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Yablonsky".

Dennis Yablonsky
Chief Executive Officer
Allegheny Conference on Community Development