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11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1312

T: 412.281.4783

F: 412.392.4520

AlleghenyConference.org

September 4, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh Downtown-
Uptown-Oakland-East End Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project – FY19
FTA Small Starts Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

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 improve the economy and quality of life in the 10-county Pittsburgh region. On behalf of the Allegheny Conference and our member organizations, we write to express our full support for the Pittsburgh Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East End Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. We respectfully ask for this project to be included in the FTA's Small Starts program funding for fiscal year 2019.

Public and private sector leaders across the 10-county Pittsburgh region have joined together to form the Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern Pennsylvania (RTA), a public-private partnership designed to enhance the region's transportation network. Over the past two years, the RTA developed a paradigm shifting set of transportation development principles, and identified 50 critical projects to improve our region's long-term connectivity.¹ This project is one of the 50 projects identified as a path to achieving regional mobility goals.

¹ <http://www.regionaltransportationalliance.org/>

This BRT project will connect two of the top three largest economic centers in Pennsylvania – downtown Pittsburgh and the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, home to Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, the project will allow for reinvestment and development throughout the corridor. It will provide critical access and connectivity to major employment, health care, education, retail and housing developments. The project is critical to expanding economic opportunities in the region. It should be considered a priority for Small Starts funding.

In addition to local support, this project has the support of the Great Lakes region. This project is a top priority for the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition (GLMCC) – an advocacy coalition of 36 metropolitan chambers of commerce across 12 U.S. states in the Great Lakes region. The GLMCC provided the administration with its 2017-18 Infrastructure Priorities, which included this important project.²

On behalf of the Allegheny Conference, we respectfully encourage you to fund this project, as it will improve the quality of life for individuals by increasing connectivity, and will provide significant economic and social benefits throughout the Pittsburgh region.

We, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development Board, sincerely request your support for this important project.



Dennis Yablonsky
Chief Executive Officer
Allegheny Conference on Community
Development



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Community Development
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² http://www.greaterpittsburghchamberofcommerce.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/GLMCC_Infrastructure_Project_List.pdf

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