

April 1, 2014

Mr. Chris Metka
TE/TAP/SRTS Coordinator
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Center for Program Development and Management
400 North Street, 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
Lower Hill Infrastructure Project, Pittsburgh PA**

Dear Mr. Metka:

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) – an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference, works to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in Southwestern Pennsylvania. To this end, GPCC is an active advocate for the redevelopment of the 28 acre site located in the City of Pittsburgh. On behalf of GPCC, I am writing to express our full support for the Lower Hill Infrastructure Project submitted by the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA). The project is a top regional priority and will have a significant economic impact on the region. We urge your approval of this Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application.

These improvements are part of a larger effort to redevelop the Hill District, a historically disadvantaged neighborhood in Pittsburgh. This infrastructure project focuses on constructing a new street grid, making improvements to the surrounding roads and, eventually, constructing a cap over the I-579 Crosstown Boulevard. These improvements will serve to reconnect the Hill District with Downtown and will support redevelopment of the entire 28-acre site.

The requested funds will be utilized for pedestrian improvements and storm water management solutions. But most importantly, this project will promote sustainable prosperity in a historically disadvantaged community.

Again, we urge your approval of this project. This is a top priority for the Pittsburgh region.

Sincerely,



Dewitt Peart

President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce