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May 30, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

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 (PRA) – work together to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. To this end, the Allegheny Conference is actively engaged in the redevelopment of the 28 acre site located in the City of Pittsburgh. On behalf of the Allegheny Conference, I am writing to express our full support for the Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's application for the FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant. The Pittsburgh region's business and civic communities fully support the project.

The grant will support the redevelopment of a 28 acre site located in the City of Pittsburgh's Hill District, a historically economically disadvantaged area. The grant will facilitate the construction of an urban street grid, help improve the surrounding roads and initiate the design of a cover or "cap" over Interstate 579 (I-579).

Historically, I-579 has acted as an artificial barrier to development in the Hill District. The proposed infrastructure improvements will reconnect the Hill District neighborhood with the Central Business District of the city and create traditional urban blocks for development in the process. And while the exact mix of development will be determined in response to market demands, the development is projected to result in a private investment of \$379 million. And more importantly, the proposed project will foster sustainable growth to a historically distressed community.

The City of Pittsburgh's 28 acres is a strategic development site for the Pittsburgh region, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny Conference. The site is critical to the continued growth of the region and the TIGER Grant is vital to its redevelopment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dennis Yablonsky
CEO, Allegheny Conference on Community Development