

MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP

BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

133 BROWNS HILL ROAD VALENCIA, PA 16059

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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July 10, 2018

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

**RE: Gateway 228 Project
Butler County, Pennsylvania**

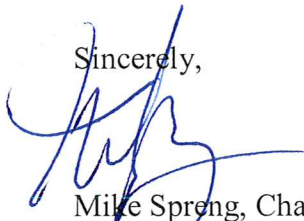
Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Middlesex Township, I am humbled to offer my support for Butler County's funding request through the U.S. Department of Transportation – Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program for the Gateway 228 Project. The requested BUILD funds are targeted specifically for our community and will result in significant transportation, safety and economic benefits for Middlesex Township.

Middlesex Township is a small rural community located in south-central Butler County that has faced capacity, safety, and access issues along Route 228 for nearly 15 years. Traveling east on Route 228 toward PA Route 8, motorists enter a "S" curve, often referred to as "Balls Bend". This 1.6-mile, two-lane stretch, classified as a Rural Arterial Highway, is notorious for traffic congestion, increased travel times, and excessive crashes and fatalities. From 2013-2017, approximately 80 crashes were reported along Balls Bend, exceeding the state average by more than double. A successful BUILD grant will specifically target transportation challenges that have long deterred access to and development in our community.

Middlesex Township respectfully requests your favorable consideration of Butler County's Gateway 228 Project. Should you have any questions regarding my support, please do not hesitate to contact me at (724)-898-3571. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Spreng, Chairman
Middlesex Township Board of Supervisors



MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

133 BROWNS HILL ROAD
VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA 16059-9129

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July 10, 2018

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

**RE: Gateway 228 Project
Butler County, Pennsylvania**

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Middlesex Township Police Department, I would like to convey my department's full support for Butler County's funding request through the U.S. Department of Transportation – Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program for the Gateway 228 Project. The \$268 million transportation initiative will assist Middlesex Township Police Department with safeguarding the lives and property of the people we serve.

Middlesex Police Department is a full-service department comprised of four dedicated full-time officers and three part-time officers. Collectively, these individuals engage in a wide variety of public safety, law enforcement, traffic management, and emergency response roles. Balls Bend, one of the target areas for BUILD funds, poses significant safety risks to our residents and my police force.

Over the last few years, Middlesex Township Police Department has attended to numerous, crashes including a fatality, along this stretch of Route 228. A successful BUILD grant will realign Balls Bend to eliminate curves and gradients to improve sight lines and install shoulders and pull-over locations to accommodate police and emergency vehicles. These and the other improvements being implemented as part of Gateway 228 will allow our first responders to reach residents faster during their time of crisis.

The Middlesex Township Police Department respectfully requests your favorable consideration of Butler County's funding request. Should you have any questions regarding my support, please do not hesitate to contact me at (724)898-3533. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sergeant Randy Ruediger, Office in Charge
Middlesex Township Police Department