



RegionalTransportationAlliance.org

July 18 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you on behalf of the Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern PA, representing leadership from the public and private sectors in greater Pittsburgh, and respectfully request your support in approving 2018 federal BUILD funds for the Gateway 228 Project in Butler County, Pennsylvania. This project is an integral component in our region's effort to strengthen its infrastructure and its economy, and securing these funds remains a top priority for our communities.

Released in the spring of 2017, *Imagine Transportation 2.0* articulates a vision for the kinds of transportation investments needed to achieve a better transportation future in our region. The Gateway 228 Project is one of the key corridors we identified for improvement. This project would provide a much-needed improved route for people, freight and economic development.

Route 228 is the main road through the fast-growing residential and business areas in the southwest corner of Butler County. In many places, the road is two lanes, and the increased residential development and business attraction has created bottlenecks that are affecting reliability for multiple users, including commuters, students, freight, and local area residents. Opportunities have been identified to improve strategic intersections and select portions of the road's geometry to improve the overall flow and multi-user access of this important local corridor.

Butler County is seeking BUILD funds to address the most significant transportation challenges along Route 228 – inadequate capacity, excessive number of crashes and fatalities, and lack of access to key employment centers, schools, and residential neighborhoods. Due to the County's rural setting, a reliable and safe roadway network is vital to economic development and job growth. The requested funds will create new opportunities to connect rural residents to suburban employment centers, impacting the flexibility and mobility of the workforce. A well-developed roadway network and reliable road infrastructure are important prerequisites for economic development and competitiveness, and will help us achieve many of the Principles outlined in our vision for a better transportation future.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carly Dobbins-Bucklad".

Carly Dobbins-Bucklad
Project Manager, Regional Transportation Alliance of SWPA