



## SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

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May 15, 2020

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

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Executive Director  
James R. Hassinger

### Re: Support for the Gateway 228 Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), I am pleased to offer my support for Butler County's funding request through the U.S. Department of Transportation - Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program for the Gateway 228 Project. The requested funds will provide capacity improvements to alleviate traffic congestion reduce accidents and support economic growth along Route 228, a primary artery connecting rural and suburban residents with emerging employment opportunities in the region.

SPC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization serving 10 counties across the Pittsburgh region, including Butler County. As the regional forum for collaboration, planning and public decision-making regarding transportation and economic development issues in southwestern Pennsylvania, SPC recognizes the importance of maximizing the efficiency of transportation infrastructure and developing innovative funding strategies utilizing partnerships spanning from the local to federal level.

The BUILD grant will create through lanes, left and right turn lanes, and multimodal accommodations along State Route 228. The grant will provide time and fuel savings to area residents, improve air quality and traffic flow, spur economic development, and free-up resources for other critical transportation projects in the region. The planned transportation improvements are consistent with SPC's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *SmartMoves for a Changing Region*, specifically the three main goals of the plan:

- **Connected Mobility** - A world-class, safe and well maintained, integrated transportation system that provides mobility for all.
- **Resilient Communities** - The revitalization of our communities will make us a magnet for new investment. Intensive investments in connectivity, walkable neighborhoods, and green infrastructure will attract business and residents to newer and older communities alike.
- **A Globally Competitive Economy** - Strategic infrastructure investments and workforce training will make the region recognized as a global leader in technology, innovation, and growth.

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As such, I respectfully request your consideration and support for this very important, highly visible, and regionally significant transportation and development project for southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



James R. Hassinger, Ph.D., AICP  
Executive Director