



May 3, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Gateway 228 – Mars RR Bridge Extension Project
Butler County, Pennsylvania**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of Cranberry Township to express our wholehearted support for the funding application submitted to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Gateway 228 – Mars RR Bridge Extension Project. The funds sought are crucial for advancing the final phase of the Gateway 228 project, which holds immense significance for Butler County and the surrounding region.

The Gateway 228 project encompasses the State Route 228 (SR 228) corridor, including SR 228 and State Route 3020 (Freedom Road), spanning a 26.4-mile distance across seven municipalities. Cranberry Township, with its diverse and thriving economy, stands to benefit greatly from the completion of this project. As a regional retail center with easy access to Pittsburgh, Cranberry Township is also emerging as a hub for technology, engineering, and customer service industries. Major organizations such as UPMC Lemieux Center, McKesson, Kawneer (an Alcoa Company), and Mine Safety Appliance, among others, have chosen Cranberry Township as their home base. Additionally, the township is fostering a growing number of leading-edge startups, manufacturing, finance, retail, and hospitality businesses. The strategic location, coupled with low taxes and a highly-educated workforce, makes Cranberry Township an ideal place for business development.

Since 2018, significant progress has been made on the Gateway 228 project, thanks to previous BUILD grants totaling \$45 million. However, the completion of the Mars RR Bridge Extension, the final segment of the project, remains essential. This last phase involves widening SR 288 and integrating it seamlessly with the newly constructed Pittsburgh Street Intersection Improvement project, covering a distance of 3.25 miles. The requested USDOT funds are imperative for ensuring the successful completion of this critical infrastructure project.

Investing in Route 228 will have far-reaching implications, including job creation, economic growth, and improved accessibility to previously isolated regions. Cranberry Township fully supports this pivotal transportation initiative and recognizes its importance in enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating economic development.

Thank you for considering this funding application, and I am available to provide any additional information or address any queries you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Skorupan".

John Skorupan, Chairman
Cranberry Township General Authority

