



Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis

February 2, 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 to express my support for Butler County's funding application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Gateway 228-Mars RR Bridge Extension Project. The requested funds will be used to complete the final phase of the Gateway 228 Project, a comprehensive initiative focused on State Route 228 (SR228) corridor. Gateway 228 is a vital project that spans 26.4 miles across seven municipalities and serves as an economic epicenter for many suburban and rural communities throughout Butler County.

The completion of the Gateway 228 Project will yield a positive economic impact on local communities as well as the entire region. Gateway 228 supports over 2,600 businesses, 36,000 jobs and moves over \$20 billion in freight. Since 2018, the Gateway 228 project has made consistent progress with the support of a 2018 BUILD grant of \$20 million and a 2020 BUILD grant of \$25 million. As of January, ten of the eleven roadway segments which make up the Gateway 228 project have been completed or are actively under construction. The only remaining segment on RT 228 is the 3.25-mile Mars Railroad Extension. The requested USDOT funding will allow for the completion of this final segment.

The investment of funding into the Gateway 228 project will support job creation, economic growth, and provide improved accessibility to previously isolated areas throughout Butler County. I appreciate your favorable consideration of this important transportation initiative. Should you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin A. Davis".

Austin A. Davis
Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania