

SENATOR  
**ELDER VOGEL, JR.**  
47TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

- SENATE BOX 203047  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3047  
(717) 787-3076  
FAX: (717) 772-2756
  - 488 ADAMS STREET  
ROCHESTER, PA 15074-1940  
(724) 774-0444  
FAX: (724) 773-7384
  - 8001 ROWAN ROAD, SUITE 205,  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066  
(878) 978-2575  
FAX: (878) 978-2464
- evogel@pasen.gov  
senatoreldervogel.com



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

April 30, 2024

**COMMITTEES**

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TRANSPORTATION

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, Butler County, Pennsylvania  
U.S. Department of Transportation**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

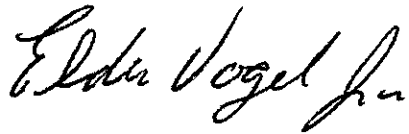
We are writing to offer our support for Butler County's application for funding to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Gateway 228 – Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project. The requested funds will allow for the completion of the final and most costly phase of the larger Gateway 228 project, a comprehensive initiative focused on the State Route 228 (SR 228) corridor. The Gateway 228 project includes SR 228 and State Route 3020 (Freedom Road), spanning 26.4 miles across seven municipalities and serving as an economic epicenter for the many suburban and rural communities throughout Butler County.

Traveling through our districts, SR 228 is a vital connector for both local communities and the greater region. The funds requested by this application will facilitate the completion of the Gateway 228 – Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project, the final portion of the larger Gateway 228 project. Substantial investments have already been made into the Gateway 228 project, in the form of a 2018 BUILD grant of \$20 million and a 2020 BUILD grant of \$25 million. As of January 2024, ten out of the eleven roadway segments within Gateway 228 have been completed or are actively under construction, representing a substantial investment totaling \$184 million. This is evidence of the project's importance as an economic conduit for Butler County's suburban and rural communities. This project will join the other sections of the Gateway 228 project while widening SR 228 from two travel lanes to five travel lanes in Cranberry Township, Adams Township, and Seven Fields Borough. This will reduce congestion and travel times in these areas as more vehicles will be able to move efficiently along the corridor with more lane space available. Completing this section of the Gateway 228 project will also allow SR 3021 (Freedom Road) in the west to seamlessly integrate with the newly constructed Pittsburgh Street Intersection Improvement project in the east, covering 3.25 miles of construction.

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Route 228 is recognized as an Urban Arterial Highway by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. It provides the region we represent with a key linkage to Interstate 79, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and the rest of the nation, employment opportunities, economic development, and an effective transportation network. We appreciate your consideration of this crucial investment. If you have any questions regarding our support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Elder Vogel  
State Senator, 47<sup>th</sup> District



Scott E. Hutchinson  
State Senator, 21<sup>st</sup> District