

Seneca Valley School District



Tracy L. Vitale, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Administration Center
124 Seneca School Road
Harmony, PA 16037-9134
PHONE: (724) 452-6040
FAX: (724) 452-6105

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 the Seneca Valley School District (SVSD) to express our strong support for the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project and the associated funding request through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) program.

As a well-established and award-winning public school in Butler County, PA, SVSD takes great pride in serving our community and preparing our students for success. Spanning 100 square miles and encompassing some of the fastest-growing communities in the state, including Cranberry, Forward, Jackson, and Lancaster townships, as well as Callery, Evans City, Harmony, Seven Fields, and Zelienople boroughs, SVSD is directly impacted by the overall Gateway 228 project and, in particular, the Mars Railroad Bridge segment that runs through our district.

At SVSD, in collaboration with family and community, our mission is to provide a nurturing and safe environment with academically challenging opportunities, emphasizing digital citizenship, innovation, and global awareness in order to prepare our students to be productive and contributing citizens. The completion of the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project is crucial for ensuring the safety and accessibility of our students, staff, and families as they travel to and from our schools. Furthermore, the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project aligns with our district's commitment to providing innovative educational opportunities and preparing students for the challenges of the future. By improving transportation infrastructure and reducing congestion along Route 228, this project will enhance the overall well-being and educational experience of our students.

Therefore, we fully endorse the funding request for the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project and urge your favorable consideration. The successful completion of this project will not only benefit our district but will also contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of Butler County as a whole. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy R. Vitale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

Dr. Tracy Vitale, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools