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April 30th, 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:

On behalf of the Borough of Seven Fields, I am writing to demonstrate our support for the funding application being submitted to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to advance the *Gateway 228–Mars RR Bridge Extension Project*. The funds sought will play a pivotal role in advancing the final phase of the Gateway 228 project, which is of utmost importance to Butler County. This comprehensive investment encompasses the State Route 228 (SR 228) corridor, comprising SR 228 and State Route 3020 (Freedom Road), covering a 26.4-mile span across seven municipalities.

The main access to the Borough of Seven Fields, a community of 3,000 residents located in southern Butler County, is Route 228. As the primary transportation artery through our municipality, Route 228 plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of Seven Fields. The pending application for funding will improve safety and capacity along Route 228, as well as improved access to residential neighborhoods along the corridor. Collectively, these improvements are intended to provide the infrastructure for existing development in Seven Fields.

Since 2018, the Gateway 228 project has been steadily progressing, thanks to 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. The requested USDOT funds are essential to finalize the last segment, known as the "Mars RR Bridge Extension", linking previously completed sections and widening SR 288 from SR 3021 Franklin Road (west) to integrate seamlessly with the newly constructed Pittsburgh Street Intersection Improvement project (east). This final phase spans 3.25 miles of construction.

Investing in Route 228 holds profound implications, including job creation, economic growth, and improved accessibility to previously isolated regions throughout the area. I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this pivotal transportation initiative within my district. If you have any queries or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Regan-Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Regan-Koch

Seven Fields Council President