
Dr. Nicholas C. Neupauer

May 1, 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 the strong support of Butler County Community College (BC3) 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 an institution committed to delivering quality education that is affordable, accessible, and enriches our community, BC3 plays a vital role in the educational landscape of Butler County. Our supportive, student-centered environment values integrity, promotes diversity, and fosters success among our students. Offering a range of career programs, transfer programs, and certificates in areas such as Business & Information Technology, Health Care, Humanities and Social Sciences, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), BC3 provides pathways for students to pursue their educational and career goals.

With 70 percent of our students enrolled in programs that can be transferred to four-year colleges or universities to complete a bachelor's degree, BC3 serves as a gateway to higher education for many in our community. Additionally, our credits are recognized by public, private, state-related, and online colleges, and universities, offering our students seamless pathways to further their education.

As a regional community college with six locations, including one in Cranberry Township directly accessible by Route 228, we understand the critical importance of reliable transportation infrastructure for our students, faculty, and staff. The completion of the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project will not only enhance safety and accessibility along Route 228 but will also contribute to the overall economic vitality and growth of Butler County.

We believe that securing funding for the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project through the USDOT's MPDG program is essential to ensuring the continued success and prosperity of our community. Therefore, we offer our full endorsement of the funding request and urge your favorable consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicholas C. Neupauer
President