

April 30, 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 Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company to express our enthusiastic 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 100% volunteer organization established in 1959, the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company has been dedicated to providing fire and rescue services to the residents of Cranberry Township for over six decades. Our unique agreement with the Township, established in 1981, exemplifies a model of cooperation between local government and volunteerism. This agreement ensures that the township provides financial support for building maintenance, equipment, and apparatus, while our volunteers commit their time to training, providing Fire Safety Education, and responding to emergency calls.

At the core of our mission is the preservation and protection of the life and property of the citizens and visitors of Cranberry Township from the dangers of fire, disaster, and other emergencies. Through education, prevention, and emergency response, we strive to fulfill this mission and uphold our vision of being a highly respected model of professional fire service delivery.

The completion of the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project is critical for enhancing transportation infrastructure in Cranberry Township and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community members. By addressing transportation challenges and improving accessibility, this project will facilitate our ability to respond effectively to emergencies and deliver the best possible service to our community.

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 Fire Company but will also contribute to the overall safety and prosperity of Cranberry Township.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

