



# Mars Area School District

545 Route 228  
Mars, PA 16046  
(724) 625 – 1518

Dr. Mark Gross, Superintendent  
Dr. Elizabeth McMahon, Assistant Superintendent

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

At Mars Area School District, we pride ourselves on fostering an environment of academic excellence, innovation, and community engagement. With over 3,300 students enrolled across our schools that serve Mars and Valencia boroughs and Adams and Middlesex townships, we are committed to providing a comprehensive and enriching educational experience for each student.

The Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project is not only about transportation infrastructure; it's about ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. As a district, we prioritize the safety of our school community, and improvements to State Route 228 through this project will play a crucial role in enhancing traffic flow and reducing congestion, ultimately creating a safer environment for our students as they travel to and from our campuses.

Additionally, we recognize that transportation infrastructure is integral to the economic vitality and growth of our community. By investing in projects like the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension, we are not only improving access for our students but also fostering economic development and enhancing connectivity for all residents of Mars Area School District and the surrounding areas.

We enthusiastically support the funding request for the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project and urge your favorable consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Mark Gross  
Superintendent