

**MARCI MUSTELLO, MEMBER**  
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May 2, 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, Butler County, Pennsylvania**  
**U.S. Department of Transportation**

Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to convey my support for Butler County's application for funding to the U.S. Department of Transportation to facilitate the Gateway 228 – Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project. The requested funds will allow for the completion of the final and most costly phase of the larger Gateway 228 project, a comprehensive initiative focused on the State Route 228 (SR 228) corridor. The Gateway 228 project includes SR 228 and State Route 3020 (Freedom Road), spanning 26.4 miles across seven municipalities and serving as an economic epicenter for the many suburban and rural communities throughout Butler County.

Running through my district, SR 228 is vital for both local communities and the greater region. Since 2018, the larger Gateway 228 project has made consistent progress with the support of a 2018 BUILD grant of \$20 million and a 2020 BUILD grant of \$25 million. As of January 2024, ten of the eleven roadway segments which make up the Gateway 228 project have been completed or are actively under construction. The support and mobilization surrounding this project represents a substantial investment totaling \$184 million. Two project sections on either side of the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project site have already been completed, and this project will join them while widening SR 228 from two travel lanes to five travel lanes in Cranberry Township, Adams Township, and Seven Fields Borough. This will reduce congestion and travel times in these areas as more vehicles will be able to move efficiently along the corridor with more lane space available. Completing this section of the Gateway 228 project will also allow SR 3021 (Freedom Road) in the west to seamlessly integrate with the newly constructed Pittsburgh Street Intersection Improvement project in the east, covering 3.25 miles of construction.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has recognized Route 228 as an Urban Arterial Highway. As a crucial part of the transportation network through Butler County, it provides an invaluable linkage to Interstate 79, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and the rest of the nation. Route 228 is a catalyst for job creation, economic growth, and improved accessibility for previously isolated areas throughout the region. The many benefits of this project are evident, and I appreciate your consideration of this vital transportation enterprise. If you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at 724-283-5852.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marci Mustello".

Marci Mustello  
Pennsylvania State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District