

STEPHENIE SCIALABBA, MEMBER
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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, Butler County, Pennsylvania
United States Department of Transportation

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As State Representative for the 12th Legislative District in Pennsylvania, I am writing to express my emphatic support for Butler County's application for funding to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) 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.

This project is vital for both local communities and the region, and the funds sought by this application will allow for the successful completion of the Gateway 228 project. **Since 2018, the 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. This Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project phase will link previously completed sections of the greater Gateway 228 initiative and will widen SR 288 from two travel lanes to five travel lanes in Cranberry Township, Adams Township, and Seven Fields Borough. Completing this section will 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.

Route 228 is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as an **Urban Arterial Highway** and passes directly through my district. Route 228 is a **crucial thoroughway for not only local communities but for all of Butler County to Interstate 79, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and the rest of the nation.** It provides access to several of the region's largest residential areas, retailers, medical centers, restaurants, and offices. Route 228 is also a catalyst for job creation, economic growth, and improved accessibility for previously isolated areas throughout the region.

With the many benefits of this Project in mind, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephenie Scialabba'.

Stephenie Scialabba, Member
PA House of Representatives, 12th Legislative District