

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30th, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the application submitted by Butler County to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. Butler County seeks this funding to advance the final phase of the Gateway 228 – Mars RR Bridge Extension Project, a comprehensive initiative focused on the State Route 228 (SR 228) corridor, including SR 228 and State Route 3020 (Freedom Road).

State Route 228 is the primary link between key economic centers in southern Butler County – the Commonwealth's fastest-growing community – and essential waterway ports in Beaver and Armstrong counties. This corridor spans 26.4 miles across seven municipalities, serving as an economic backbone for suburban and rural communities within Butler County. Additionally, it serves as a vital connection to Interstates 79 and 76 (the Pennsylvania Turnpike), fostering regional connectivity between Southwestern PA and the entire nation.

As of January 2024, 10 out of the 11 roadway segments within Gateway 228 have been completed or are actively under construction, representing a substantial investment totaling \$184 million. The requested FY25 USDOT funds are crucial for finalizing the last segment, known as the "Mars RR Bridge Extension." This phase will link previously completed sections and widen SR 288 from SR 3021 Franklin Road (west) to seamlessly integrate with the newly constructed Pittsburgh Street Intersection Improvement project (east), covering a total of 3.25 miles of construction.

I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Fetterman
United States Senator