

18TH DISTRICT
LISA M. BOSCOLA
SENATE BOX 203018
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3018
717-787-4236
FAX: 717-783-1257

ONE EAST BROAD STREET • SUITE 120
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018
610-868-8667
FAX: 610-861-2184
TOLL FREE: 1-877-535-1818

1701 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
EASTON, PA 18042
610-250-5627 • 610-250-5629
FAX: 610-250-1889



Senate of Pennsylvania

July 8, 2019

COMMITTEES

CONSUMER PROTECTION & PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE, MINORITY CHAIR
BANKING & INSURANCE
COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC
& RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
GAME & FISHERIES
RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PENNVEST)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
LEGISLATIVE BICYCLE CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

TWITTER: @senlisaboscola
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SenLisaBoscola
WEB: www.senatorboscola.com

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: United States Department of Transportation, Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage
Development (BUILD) Grant 2019: Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this correspondence to lend my full support for the Lehigh Valley Planning
Commission's request for a 2019 BUILD grant. The grant funding is imperative to the implementation of
the more than \$50 million Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor project.

The collaboration of more than 20 local, public, private and non-profit organizations, Riverside
Drive will be a 3.25-mile project that reclaims a vacant rail bed to become a centerpiece of a more than
\$300 million brownfields redevelopment project known as the Waterfront, in the City of Allentown. The
two-lane thoroughfare, paired with a 10-foot hiking and biking commuter trail, will provide the
connective tissue for a project that will include a Riverwalk, public plazas, floating docks and a Main
Street through an office and housing development on the former site of the long-closed Lehigh Structural
Steel.

The project's ADA accessible design connects Allentown residents, commuters, recreational trail
users and tourists from established commercial and mixed-use developments to the new cultural,
recreational and smart growth redevelopment projects occurring along Allentown's waterfront.

It will close Pennsylvania's highest priority trail gap, providing a critical commuting link in the
165-mile Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail network and offering an alternative travel
option to regional trail systems. It improves connectivity between rural and urban areas of the Lehigh
Valley and eastern Pennsylvania, providing a new commuting corridor to job centers, while strengthening
the spine of the region's recreational trail network.

Whether linking workers to their jobs, rural to urban, consumers to the businesses, or goods to the
deliverers - this investment transcends social and economic barriers. Due to the importance of this project
to the Lehigh Valley Region and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the LVPC's application for a 2019
BUILD grant has my full support.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Boscola
State Senator – 18th District