

16TH DISTRICT
PATRICK M. BROWNE

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Appropriations Chairman



Senate of Pennsylvania

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July 6, 2019

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

Re: BUILD 2019: Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

It is my understanding that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission is submitting an application for the 2019 BUILD grant program and is seeking \$20 Million for the implementation of the Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor project. I am pleased to offer my support of their submission and respectfully ask that it receive the full amount requested.

Riverside Drive is a 3.25 mile multi-municipal commuter corridor and is made up of a two-lane thoroughfare, paired with a twelve-foot bike and walking commuter corridor. This is a collaboration of more than 20 local public, private and non-profit organizations working together. It is a critical commuting link in the 165-mile Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail network and offers an alternative travel option to regional trail systems and job centers. This project improves the connectivity between rural and urban areas of the Lehigh Valley and eastern Pennsylvania.

Riverside Drive is located along a vacated rail corridor adjacent to a redevelopment project known as The Waterfront, in the City of Allentown. Situated on a large former brownfield, the project will provide a river walk, floating docks to support public access to the river, public plazas, and a main street through the adjacent site redevelopment. The project's ADA accessible design connects Allentown residents, rural and suburban commuters, recreational trail users, and tourists from established commercial and mixed-use development to the new cultural, recreational, and economic redevelopment opportunities occurring along Allentown's waterfront.

Thank you in advance for giving my letter thoughtful consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance in advocating for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Browne".

Patrick M. Browne
State Senator- 16th District
Senate Appropriations Chairman

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PLEASE VISIT SENATOR BROWNE'S WEBSITE AT SENATORBROWNE.COM FOR HIS SATELLITE OFFICE LOCATIONS