



## THE WATERFRONT

June 18, 2019

Becky A. Bradley, AICP  
Executive Director  
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
961 Marcon Blvd., Ste. 310  
Allentown, PA 18109

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

Dear Ms. Bradley:

We are writing to offer our financial commitment and support for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission request for a BUILD grant.

This transformative 3.25-mile project not only closes Pennsylvania's highest priority trail gap, but it reclaims a vacated rail corridor and crosses through several municipalities, while becoming 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 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.

The Waterfront Development Company will be providing \$19 million of matching funds to the Riverside Drive Project. These funds consist of approved RACP Grants, an approved PennDOT Multimodal Grant, construction funds in the up and coming Riverside District through the Neighborhood Improvement Zone as well as Owner's Equity including the gift of the land needed for this 3.25-mile project, which equates to approximately 30 acres.

We offer our support for a project we believe will not only provide greater access to all residents but continue the rebirth of Pennsylvania's third-largest city.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Jaendl

Principal