

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 1, 2019

Ms. Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

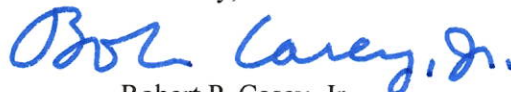
I write in support of the application submitted by Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for funding from the United States Department of Transportation's BUILD grant. I urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration.

If granted, the funds would be used for the Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor project. Located along a vacated rail corridor in the City of Allentown, Riverside Drive is a 3.25 mile multi-municipal commuter corridor, made up of a two-lane thoroughfare and paired with a 10 foot bike and walking commuter corridor. This project is a collaboration of more than 20 local public, private and non-profit organizations working together and will aid in the expansive redevelopment efforts along Allentown's waterfront.

Specifically, LVPC will use the funding to construct a river walk, floating docks to support public access to the river, public plazas and a main street through the adjacent office and housing development site. 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. Additionally, this project 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 comprehensive project has tremendous potential to improve connectivity between rural and urban areas of the Lehigh Valley and eastern Pennsylvania as well as spur economic growth in the region.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator