

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2019

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

Re: Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the BUILD grant application submitted by Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC). If awarded, LVPC intends to use the grant funds to offset costs associated with the implementation of the 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 connect 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. Once again, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the aforementioned grant application. In the event that LVPC's application is selected, please direct a copy of your award notification to my Grants Coordinator, Alex Byrne. Alex can be reached via email at Alexandra_Byrne@toomey.senate.gov

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator