

May 13, 2009

Mr. Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:



On behalf of the Metropolitan Caucus, a newly created convening body of elected officials from the five counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's forthcoming grant applications for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). We believe that SEPTA's proposed projects are innovative, inclusive, and embody the core values of the legislation by creating jobs, investing in the region's infrastructure, and improving its energy efficiency.



Under the Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program, SEPTA has proposed \$6.4 million in capital investments to reduce targeted system energy consumption by up to 50 percent. Lighting and tunnel upgrades will make the SEPTA system more environmentally and economically sustainable, achieving payback from energy cost savings in just 2-4 years.



Under the High-Speed Rail Program, SEPTA has partnered with PennDOT on a joint application for improvements along the Keystone Corridor. Coupling improvements to commuter facilities with upgrades to designated high-speed rail corridors will improve the overall efficiency of the nation's envisioned passenger rail network.



The Metropolitan Caucus lauds SEPTA for its proactive and transparent approach in implementing ARRA's funds thus far, and has full confidence in the organization's ability to dutifully administer additional federal funds. The Caucus believes that SEPTA's forthcoming applications embody stimulus principles, and that approval of its proposed projects ultimately will serve as a foundation for Greater Philadelphia's future economic prosperity.



Sincerely,

Charles H. Martin Chair Bucks County Commissioners	Terence Farrell Chair Chester County Commissioners	Linda A. Cartisano Chair Delaware County Council	James R. Matthews Chair Montgomery County Commissioners	Michael A. Nutter Mayor City of Philadelphia
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cc: United States Congressional Delegation  
Pennsylvania State Legislative Delegation  
Joseph Boardman, President and CEO, Amtrak  
Peter Rogoff, Administrator Designate, Federal Transit Administration  
Roy Kienitz, Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Policy Designate, U.S. Department of Transportation