



Southwestern
Pennsylvania
Commission

Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2500
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1852
Telephone: 412.391.5590
Fax: 412.391.9160
E-Mail: comments@spcregion.org
www.spcregion.org

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January 5, 2012

Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Ohio River Trail Council – 2012 TCSP Grant Application

Secretary LaHood:

Please consider this a letter of support from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) for a 2012 Transportation Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP) grant application for the above referenced project.

SPC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for southwestern Pennsylvania. This implementation project will facilitate the development of approximately 2.5 miles of trail connections, and provide connections from the Montour Trail through the communities of Coraopolis, Moon and Sewickley. This project represents the first step in the westward extension of a trail network that originates in Washington, D.C., more than 300 miles to the southeast.

This project will also bring trail related economic benefits to these communities and will also make opportunities for active transportation more readily available and accessible to residents of our region.

The project also consistent with policy statements in the 2040 Transportation and Development Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania that call for the provision of transportation options, and call for the connection of existing regional trail assets to additional communities through the establishment of expanded trail networks.

As such, we support the above referenced applicant's request for funding from the Department of Transportation's Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP) Grant Program.

Sincerely,

James R. Hassinger, Ph.D., AICP
Executive Director