



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 18th, 2026

Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I'm writing to express support for Butler County's funding request to the U.S. Department of Transportation infrastructure for rebuilding America (USDOT INFRA) for the *Gateway 228 – Mars RR Bridge Extension Project* (Project). The requested funds will support the final phase of Butler County's most urgent transportation initiative – Gateway 228. This multi-jurisdictional, multimodal investment spans State Route 228 (SR 228) corridor, which consists of SR 228 and State Route 3020 (Freedom Road). This 26.4-mile corridor spans seven municipalities and is the heart of economic opportunity for Butler County's suburban and rural communities.

Route 228 is Butler County's primary link between several dynamic economic activity centers – southern Butler County, the fastest growing community in the Commonwealth, and waterway ports in Beaver and Armstrong counties. It is also a critical link to Interstates 79 and 76 (the Pennsylvania Turnpike), connecting the Southwestern PA region to the nation. For 25 years, Gateway 228 had been gradually undertaken until 2018, when Butler County applied for and was awarded a 2018 BUILD grant of \$20 million and a 2020 BUILD grant of \$25 million. As of June 2026, ten of the eleven roadway segments in Gateway 228 have been completed or are under construction for a total investment of \$184 million. The successful acquisition of USDOT INFRA funding will complete the final segment of this Project that has yet to be funded.

This final segment, known as the "Mars RR Bridge Extension" will connect the previously completed segments and will widen SR 288 between SR 3021 Franklin Road (west) to tie into the newly constructed Pittsburgh Street Intersection Improvement project (east), totaling 3.25 miles of construction. Investment in Route 228 has significant consequences including the generation of jobs, income and business opportunities, and access to formerly isolated areas throughout the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this important transportation initiative in my District. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or my staff Zachary Hegedus at Zachary.hegus1@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kelly". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress
