

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I write today in support of Pittsburgh Regional Transit's (PRT) application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's 2024 All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) to design and construct station accessibility improvements at ten stations on the Red Line. I urge you to give this project full and fair consideration.

With funding, PRT informs me that it intends to design and construct accessibility improvements to bring ten Red Line stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These stations stretch from the City of Pittsburgh to Dormont, Mt. Lebanon, Castle Shannon, and Bethel Park. These accessibility improvements will bring the entire Red Line into ADA compliance, substantially reducing barriers to opportunity for residents along this corridor. I understand the project will help connect all of these communities to Pittsburgh's Southside, Downtown, and North Shore neighborhoods, home to the region's central business district, top cultural attractions, and academic institutions.

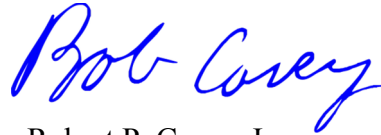
PRT has also told me that these Red Line stations, all constructed in the 1980s, feature low-level platform boarding stops that are not level with the entrance to PRT's light rail vehicles. This presents a challenge not only to individuals with mobility disabilities, but to people that may be pushing a stroller, carrying groceries, or bringing their bicycle on board. PRT has informed me they are making significant investment in new light rail vehicles to replace their current 38-year-old Siemens with new high-efficiency vehicles. The infrastructure and accessibility upgrades to these ten Red Line stations will ensure level boarding on the new light rail vehicles when they are acquired.

I have been informed that accessibility was identified as a top priority in PRT's board adopted long-range plan. This funding would thus be consistent with recent local and regional planning efforts completed by the City of Pittsburgh, PRT, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) in partnership with the region's accessibility community.

The All Stations Accessibility Program Grant was established to enhance customer accessibility by funding station accessibility projects at the nation's legacy rail systems, and PRT's proposed program is consistent with those goals. Thank you for your 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. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator