



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

January 11, 1999

Ms. Linda McKenna Boxx, Chairman  
Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 186  
Latrobe, PA 15650-0186

Dear Ms. Boxx:

As a follow-up to recent conversations involving Darren Asper of Delta Development and Lou Schultz of my staff, we offer the following information regarding several issues associated with the Allegheny Trail Alliance (ATA) projects.

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) included \$6 million in federal funds which are specifically designated for the Allegheny Trail from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Maryland. ATA, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have agreed to divide this money, with \$1 million being provided for trail projects in Maryland, and \$5 million for trail projects in Pennsylvania. This funding is 80% federal, 20% non-federal.

State funding for ATA projects was included in the Pennsylvania Capital Budget. To date, a total of \$1.5 million has been released by the Governor's Budget Office. PennDOT agrees that this state funding may be used as the "match" for the federal funding designated in TEA-21. That is, ATA will advance some projects using 100% state funding from the Capital Budget, and will also advance some 100% federally-funded projects using the TEA-21 funding. These projects will, in essence, satisfy the matching requirements for each type of funding, with the understanding that the entire funding package will ultimately involve at least 20% non-federal funding.

Pennsylvania's 1997-2008 Twelve Year Transportation Program was recently amended to include a total of \$1 million in federal funding from TEA-21 to advance engineering for ATA projects. This funding may be utilized immediately. The State Transportation Commission is scheduled to adopt the 1999-2010 Twelve Year Transportation Program on January 28, 1999. Pennsylvania's share of the TEA-21 funding for ATA projects (\$5 million) is included in the program which will be recommended to the Commission on that date. As we all know, the funding is distributed to the states in accordance with the formula defined

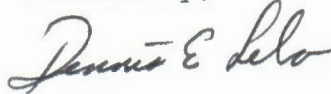
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in the legislation. That is, 26% of the funding is currently available, with the balance to be provided in each of the next four federal fiscal years at a rate of 18%, 18%, 19% and 19%.

TEA-21 also designated a total of \$125,000 for the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian facility between the Boston Bridge and McKee Point Park in Allegheny County. It is our understanding that the Regional Trail Council, a member of ATA, is the sponsor for this project. PennDOT is amenable to designating this as an ATA project if the Regional Trail Council so agrees.

I trust that you will find this information satisfactory and useful. As other issues arise, please feel free to contact the Department's ATA project coordinator, Rich Glass, in our Uniontown District Office at (724) 439-7265, or Lou Schultz in our Harrisburg Central Office at (717) 787-5246. I look forward to working with you and the ATA team to develop this very exciting project.

Sincerely,



*for*

Larry M. King  
Deputy Secretary for Planning