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January 12, 2007

MATTHEW T. STERNBERG
Executive Director

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to state my support for the Infrastructure & Facilities Improvement Program request for the High Real Estate Group's improvements to the U.S. Route 30 / Harrisburg Pike interchange in Manheim Township. My agency serves all of Lancaster County, so I am particular pleased to see public/private projects that will benefit so many constituencies.

As development pressures increase, it is important that we take steps to strengthen the transportation infrastructure as a primary means of supporting smart growth strategies, reducing congestion and improving public safety. This site in particular is important not only to the success of the adjoining retail development but to the future of the transportation corridor that serves the three-municipal region of Lancaster City, Manheim Township and East Hempfield Township. The interchange, the largest intersection between this major state artery and a busy route of the National Highway System, anchors an important gateway into Lancaster City. It serves retail, commercial and residential districts, and even has the potential to support future light rail development, contributing to establishment of a true multi-modal corridor that will support transit-oriented development over a wide area.

And what is most important is that this project is achievable in a reasonable amount of time. Few infrastructure projects promise this wide and varied a benefit with the prospect of near-term implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Matthew T. Sternberg