

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I write in support of the joint application submitted by Montgomery County and Berks County Redevelopment Authority to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. This funding would resolve a transportation bottleneck and safety issue at Eastern Berks Gateway Railroad's (EBGX) southern terminus in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Currently, EBGX's Pottstown terminus is the only interchange connection to Norfolk Southern's Class I main line. In addition to freight rail, this area is used by the Colebrookdale Railroad's heritage passenger trains, as well as residents of an adjacent transitional housing facility, public transit bus riders, trail and park users, and visitors for regional attractions like the Pottsgrove Manor. All of these groups use the same constrained corridor with no infrastructure to manage or separate them. This bottleneck limits freight throughput, slows the movement of passengers and pedestrians, and has produced repeated safety incidents.

This project will install three additional tracks to separate Norfolk Southern's local freight operations from mainline and passenger operations. In addition to improving efficiency for the area's existing services, this will ensure safety and reliability for future passenger rail service between Philadelphia and Reading – an ongoing project being overseen by the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority. Additionally, the requested funding will allow for the construction of dedicated pedestrian infrastructure and trail connections along this corridor, as well as a train shed that will serve as a weather-protected area for the heritage railroad's passengers, locomotives, and rail cars.

I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fetterman', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

John Fetterman
United States Senator