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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Aug. 24, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (PA Chamber), the largest, broad-based business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, representing nearly 10,000 member companies of all sizes and industries. First and foremost, I would like to express our appreciation to you, the Biden Administration, and Congress for the historic Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law legislation (BIL). Its passage, strongly supported by our organization and local chambers of commerce across the state, demonstrated outstanding governance and vision. Moreover, government leaders are to be commended for the wide range of discretionary grant programs authorized through BIL/Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act, including the Advanced Digital Management System (ADCMS) funding opportunity, which is the subject of my letter.

The PA Chamber supports, as a matter of policy, use of innovative and advanced technology and reforms to the procurement, design and construction processes so as to facilitate more efficient project delivery. As such, we support the state of Pennsylvania's grant application for this program, which would fund such an approach in the state.

Further, our members in the transportation and design software industries have been eagerly awaiting the release of this specific grant, and we have been joining our members in spreading the vision of its importance and significance in the infrastructure space. Our infrastructure sector has suffered tremendously from inflation, worker shortages, and recent bridge collapses on both sides of Pennsylvania. We need to embrace innovation and technology, such as was used in the historic repair of the I-95 Bridge in Philadelphia. The ADCMS program will help Pennsylvania to do just that.

I am pleased to offer this letter of support to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Advanced Digital Construction Management Systems Grant application. ADCMS funding will allow PennDOT to support and accelerate its strategic investment for progressing digital data and models for bridges and structures. We are confident that this effort will have a tremendous positive impact on improved safety for its employees and the traveling public, increased efficiency in managing the State's infrastructure, and improved resiliency for Pennsylvania's transportation network, all of which benefit employers from a wide range of industries, and Pennsylvania's economy overall.

This project aims to use currently available technologies to understand all the data elements and the value of interoperability across the systems. Digital data collection also holds promise for minimizing worker/inspector hazards during construction. Real-time quality control of construction activities would also be possible through this project. But the benefit of the 3D bridge model does not stop at the ribbon cutting. The model is then used throughout the life of the structure to enter inspection data and to visually

track deterioration over time so maintenance, rehabilitation, and future replacement costs can be planned far in advance of the need.

With over 40,000 miles of state roads and over 25,000 bridges, PennDOT's major project delivery responsibilities and its collaboration with the private sector in carrying out transportation improvement projects will greatly benefit from the proposed grant funding. Pennsylvania's local road and bridge network is also extensive. The prospect of this technological advance helping many local governments over time is exciting.

Again, thank you for your leadership and for considering investing in PennDOT digital delivery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex J. Halper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Halper
Vice President, Government Affairs
PA Chamber of Business and Industry