[Insert Letterhead]

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and

NTIA Administrator

National Telecommunications & Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20230

[Insert date]

Re: Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program: Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission – “A Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership to Bridge Middle Mile Connections”

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

On behalf of [organization name], I am pleased to support the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission’s (SPC) application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (MMGP). *A Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership to Bridge Middle Mile Connections* is a collaborative effort between SPC, local governments, community organizations, and private fiber optic infrastructure owners to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure, reducing the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet backbone across southwestern Pennsylvania.

In 2022, SPC developed [*A Connectivity Roadmap for Southwestern Pennsylvania*](https://www.spcregion.org/connected/), a strategic regional plan to identify and guide the deployment of high-speed connectivity programs and projects throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. The *Connectivity Roadmap* provides a guide to 10 counties, including the City of Pittsburgh, for building a more comprehensive and equitable broadband network that will help connect people to opportunities, jobs and education, attract new and retain current businesses, and ultimately enable southwestern Pennsylvania to be better positioned in securing future connectivity funding for potential projects and programs.

The *Connectivity Roadmap* conducted an existing conditions analysis by measuring and mapping internet speed and accessibility through the dual lenses of access and equity, concluding that most of the region has download speeds of less than 50 Mbps (underserved) or less than 25 Mbps (unserved). By identifying and evaluating access based on coverage, speed, and affordability, areas of greatest need and those ripe for investment were identified.

As part of the *Connectivity Roadmap’s* implementation, SPC is pursuing the NTIA MMGP in order to construct, improve, and provide redundancy to various middle mile fiber locations with the goal of providing affordable high-speed internet to underserved and unserved areas in southwestern Pennsylvania. The sustainable MMGP strategy has the potential to serve thousands of homes and businesses across the region to expand educational, health service, economic, and public safety opportunities. Something specific to your community or organization’s broadband experience or needs.

As a [planning partner and member government | Connectivity Roadmap Steering Committee | Connectivity Roadmap Regional Advisory Committee] of SPC, we fully support this MMGP application which represents a cooperative and deliverable effort to guide the selection of projects based on the reduction of end-user prices, connecting unserved anchor institutions, serving priority area groups, and other key objectives of the NTIA MMGP program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

[Insert signature]