



COMMONWEALTH OF
PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico
Department of Health

April 24, 2014

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Science City Urban Infrastructure

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to endorse the proposed project Science City Infrastructure Project on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Health ("PRDH"). PRDH is entrusted with all issues related to health, sanitation and public beneficence, included those physically located in the Medical Center.

The proposed project involves creating road infrastructure containing pedestrian and bicycle pathways and a bridge over the Las Americas Expressway that will link the UPR Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital, currently under construction, with the new Science City R&D, commercial and residential district. The bridge will also allow pedestrian and vehicular traffic to flow from the Medical Center to the Science City district, since there is a new bridge connecting the CCCH parcel to the Centro Medico acreage. Science City is an integral component of the Commonwealth government's initiative to turn the island into a biomedical research and development hub.

This creation of the Science City and its connection, via the roads of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, to *Centro Médico*, are vital for the medical complex's continued development as the Island's most important healthcare facility and one of the Caribbean's leading medical treatment centers. The research and treatment operations in the new Cancer Hospital currently being built will greatly complement the services provided in the medical center.

Finally, the Medical Center will enjoy other great benefits from being able to link itself with the rest of the Knowledge Corridor. The physical connection with the Knowledge Corridor will provide the Medical Center the opportunity to attract world class physicians, researchers and innovators.

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The promenades envisioned in the project will foster residential, commercial and academic developments critical to ensure the neighborhood's economic sustainability. The combined infrastructure will also be a magnet for additional lodging facilities which will foster the thriving medical tourism industry in San Juan.

I believe that this project, which physically connects the institutions of *Centro Médico* to the new Cancer Hospital and the Science City district, truly has the makings to set in motion a new era for *Centro Médico*. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our support for the project.

Truly yours,



Ana C. Ríos Armendáriz, MD
Secretary
Department of Health, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico