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April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is pleased to submit a letter supporting the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's application, Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Berth and Crane Rail Enhancements Project, for funding consideration under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia Region which includes a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey, DVRPC works with stakeholders to approve and advance Federal transportation infrastructure investment in the region.

The Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Berth and Crane Rail Enhancements Project is consistent with *Connections 2040*, DVRPC's long-range plan that was adopted by the DVRPC Board on July 25, 2013 and amended on July 24, 2014. It is also consistent with DVRPC's long-range vision for freight and is integral to the Delaware Valley Freight Centers Initiative. Unfortunately, it is not funded in the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Not all priority projects are fully funded within the first four years of the TIP due to state and federal funding constraints. In fact, our region has found it increasingly difficult to fund all current TIP projects and to add new projects to the program, though they may be valuable and effective in improving our transportation network. Should the Department of Transportation select this application for TIGER grant funding, DVRPC confirms that we are committed to take necessary steps, as required, to ensure it will be implemented and be included in appropriate documents, such as the TIP and long-range plan. Furthermore, DVRPC will continue to closely coordinate the undertaking of the proposed project with appropriate local freight stakeholders through its longstanding freight advisory committee, the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force.

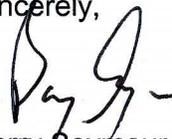
The proposed project will upgrade and modernize the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal by (1) adding structural support to an existing crane rail and by adding a third rail (100 foot gauge) to Berths 2-5; (2) providing the electric infrastructure needed to support the electric cranes and terminal; and (3) retrofitting two existing cranes to accommodate electrical drives. These

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improvements will advance Phase 2 of the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal's Capital Plan, which will enable the terminal to take advantage of the forthcoming Delaware River's 45 foot channel that is expected to substantially increase container traffic to the region. At the same time, it will be able to keep the terminal competitive for newer/expected port calls, maintain support for current maritime customers, reduce diesel consumption, and provide the much needed infrastructure to support future landside projects. The Packer Avenue Marine Terminal currently handles large volumes of automobiles, steel and project cargoes and is located next to two major rail yards and interstate highways in the City of Philadelphia.

Creating a modern, reliable, safe and affordable multi-modal transportation system is part of DVRPC's vision for the Delaware Valley. Our transportation network is already expansive and interconnected. Targeted freight infrastructure investments from TIGER for projects, such as Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Berth and Crane Rail Enhancements, will improve the transportation system's performance, integrate facilities, and improve freight mobility and efficiency that will sustain and enhance economic and quality of life benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors to the region. We look forward to your support of this project that is important to our region.

Sincerely,



Barry Seymour
Executive Director

cc: Edward Henderson, Director of Finance, Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

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