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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, Southport Marine Terminal Development, 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.

This application, Southport Marine Terminal Development, is consistent with *Connections 2040*, which is 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, the proposed project 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 this proposed project with appropriate local freight stakeholders through its longstanding freight advisory committee, the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force.

The requested funding for this project will provide for berth development, berth deepening, and utilities at the 119 acre Southport Marine Terminal, which is one of three sites at the Southport Marine Terminal Complex, in the City of Philadelphia. The conceptual design plans include the following berth components: a 2,128 foot marginal wharf, a utility trench, and pile-supported

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crane rails to support two 1,064 foot berths for containerized cargo ships. Given the configuration of the terminal, a very high berth utilization rate to support the 119 acre terminal and near terminal facilities is anticipated. The preliminary design of the berth would also accommodate diverse vessel types, such as liquid bulk and vessel car carriers.

These components are required to help transform this currently idle and undeveloped property into a strong and efficient terminal that can handle existing and anticipated cargo growth from the Delaware River 45-foot Channel-Deepening project that is nearing completion and anticipated new cargo from new business operations. The Port of Philadelphia has experienced substantial growth over the past five years. Support for the development of the Southport Marine Terminal will continue this growth, which will bring new jobs and sustain the region's global competitiveness. It is also the Port of Philadelphia's first major marine terminal expansion in over 40 years in order to capitalize on current and future cargo demand.

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 Southport Marine Terminal Development, 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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