



MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

Leading the Way to Port Progress

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April 25, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) Berth and Crane Rail Enhancements

Dear Secretary Foxx:

This letter is to express our support of the 2016 TIGER Application submitted by the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA). As information, the Maritime Exchange is a nonprofit trade association serving port interests in Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey, and is dedicated to promoting waterborne transportation in the tri-state region.

The PAMT Capital Plan consists of six phases and has an estimated total cost of \$342 - \$456 million. The proposed \$17 million PRPA TIGER 2016 grant will aid the implementation of Phase 2 of the PAMT Capital Plan. The total anticipated cost for Phase 2 is \$39 million with a local match of \$22 million.

PRPA developed this Capital Plan to modernize the terminal in anticipation of additional container traffic expected upon completion of the Delaware River 45-foot Main Channel Deepening Project. PRPA's grant request is particularly timely given the importance of the deepening to our port complex. This economic development priority is slated for completion in 2017 and is expected to generate up to \$1 billion in local port infrastructure projects. Today, Delaware River commerce contributes \$53 billion to the regional economy and supports 135,000 jobs. The PRPA project will help ensure the PAMT and its freight supply chain partners can take full advantage of federal and state investments in channel deepening.

On behalf of our nearly 300 private- and public-sector members, the Maritime Exchange strongly encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to support this very important project to enhance the safety of our shipping corridor and promote the ongoing growth and development of Delaware River commerce.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at dennis.rochford@maritimedelriv or at (215) 925-2615.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rochford
President

cc: Ed Henderson, PRPA Director, Finance and Capital Funding
Lisa Himber, Vice President, Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay