



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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JAMES F. KENNEY  
Mayor

April 27, 2016

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

**RE: TIGER Grant Letter of Support – Southport Marine Terminal Development**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I would like to express my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's *TIGER* application for funding to construct a vessel berth at its Southport Marine Terminal. The City of Philadelphia is an avid supporter of progress and developments in Philadelphia's Port district.

Construction of the initial berth is a critical component of a full-scale plan to develop 119 acres along the Delaware River into a thriving Port facility. The United States has experienced rapid growth in the volume of containers being handled by U.S. Ports. Since the recession, growth has increased steadily at East Coast Ports, including the Port of Philadelphia. Additionally, when completed in 2017, the Delaware River Main Channel deepening project will allow the Port of Philadelphia to handle approximately 90 percent of the world shipping fleet. Given these developments, the Port's existing capacity is not expected to meet projected growth.

Developing Southport will allow for the Port of Philadelphia to meet the current and expected demands, provide for more efficient transit of imports and exports, and better serve the region's needs. The Port has direct highway and double-stack rail connections that allow for efficient distribution to local and the Midwest United States.

The PRPA anticipates that Southport will allow for Port of Philadelphia facilities to handle over 60 percent of the region's demands within 15 years. The PRPA forecasts that it will result in

substantially fewer truck miles over 25 years, which will increase safety, reduce emissions, and lead to significant savings in shipping costs.

The berth construction is estimated to cost \$98 million. A TIGER grant of \$25 million is proposed will be matched with an approximately \$73 million from private/public sources to construct the berth. The total cost of the project is anticipated to cost \$309 million

I am pleased to support this project and strongly recommend the Southport Marine Terminal Project for federal funding through the U. S. Department of Transportation's TIGER grant program. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



James F. Kenney

Mayor