



June 24, 2016

Mr. Stephen Shafer  
Office of Intermodal System Development  
U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W21-315  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration;  
Notice of Open Season for Marine Highway Projects

Dear Mr. Shafer:

I am writing with respect to the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority and Port Canaveral's application for a project designation under the U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration Open Season for Marine Highway Projects. The public-private partnership for a single deck barge service between the Port of Philadelphia and Port of Jacksonville for domestic service proposed in their application is in line with the M-95 Corridor vision to establish a network of interconnected facilities that encompass the waterways paralleling and complementing the Interstate 95 highway and rail network on the Eastern Seaboard including the costal shipping lanes, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the extensive network of inland waterways that connect the coast to inland markets, the access points and terminals where freight is transferred from land to sea and the multimodal landside connections to the surface transportation system.

As one of the nation's most congested transportation corridors, the marine highway service proposed by the applicants would seek to provide an alternative modal move for freight along a considerable portion of the I-95/M-95 system between Jacksonville, Florida and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The "Phila-Canaveral Marine Service," if successfully advanced through grant funding for planning and marketing, could reduce congestion along the I-95 highway system, reduce air emissions, increase environmental sustainability and provide additional transportation redundancy and resiliency. The I-95 Coalition's region accounts for \$4.5 trillion of our nation's economy (40% of US GDP) and over 5.3 billion tons of freight shipments annually. The mobility, safety and economic competitiveness of the corridor and the country would be supported by the barge service proposed by Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, Port Canaveral and barge operator Columbia Group.

The proposed "Phila-Canaveral Marine Service," in seeking to expand marine highway capabilities along the East Coast, is consistent with the Department's stated objective: "to reduce landside congestion and increase the use of domestic marine transportation by supporting the development of transportation options for shippers," and merits MARAD's consideration under the current Notice of Open Season for Marine Highway Projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Hendren".

Dr. Patricia Hendren, Executive Director  
I-95 Corridor Coalition