
December 14, 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 for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Warehouse Relocation and Terminal Capacity Project under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fostering Advancement in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) program. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization 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 Warehouse Relocation and Terminal Capacity Project is consistent with DVRPC's long-range plan, *Connections 2040*, which was adopted by the DVRPC Board on July 23, 2013. 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. DVRPC will stay committed to this project by taking necessary steps, as required, to ensure it will be implemented, should the Department of Transportation select this application for FASTLANE grant funding. Furthermore, DVRPC will continue to closely coordinate the undertaking of the project with appropriate local freight stakeholders through its longstanding freight advisory committee, the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force.

The Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Warehouse Relocation and Terminal Capacity Project is part of an overall terminal enhancement plan made up of 2 phases. Phase 1 will include crane and wharf improvements. The grant request pertains entirely to Phase 2 which concerns the demolition and relocation of existing warehouse infrastructure to an off terminal location. The demolition and relocation of existing warehouse infrastructure will significantly increase the annual capacity of South Philadelphia's Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, one of the region's busiest general cargo marine terminals, by approximately 137,000 TEUs. The project will also

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provide Philadelphia/Delaware Valley area shippers with logistics cost savings opportunities due to reduced travel from origin/destination to the port facility. This reduction in overall road miles will lead to a number of other area-wide benefits such as reduced air emissions, roadway preservation, and increased highway safety.

Creating a modern and strong multi-modal transportation system is part of DVRPC's vision for the Delaware Valley. Targeted investments supported by the FASTLANE program that includes the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's application for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Warehouse Relocation and Terminal Capacity Project will improve the system's performance, better integrate facilities, and strengthen operations of the nation's critical freight and highway corridors. The Philadelphia Regional Port Authority plays a leading role in advancing our region as a national and international destination for commerce and transportation. This project will continue to strengthen that role. We look forward to your support of this critical project in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'BS', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Barry Seymour
Executive Director

cc: Jeff Theobald, Chief Executive Officer, Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

BS:ms