



MARITIME EXCHANGE

for the Delaware River and Bay

Leading the Way to Port Progress

John T. Reynolds, Chairman
Uwe Schulz, Vice Chairman
Robert A. Herb, Treasurer
Dennis Rochford, President
Lisa B. Hember, Vice President
A. Robert Degen, Esq., Secretary/Solicitor

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

RE: PhilaPort Surface Streets Improvements Planning Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Maritime Exchange is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting maritime transportation and commerce within the Delaware River and Bay seaport system. This letter expresses our support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) request of \$1.2 million in federal grant funding for its Surface Streets Improvements Planning Project.

The project will provide preliminary engineering design services and environmental clearance for improvements to the street network serving the Port of Philadelphia. Further, it will enhance the connectivity of port facilities and improve the efficiency of port operations, allowing for an expansion of capacity to support planned growth, particularly at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals.

The surface transportation network serving the Port of Philadelphia needs improvement to enhance access to and circulation between port facilities to accommodate, in a safe manner, those planned increases in truck traffic due to an anticipated doubling of auto cargo within the next 10 years, and a doubling of container volumes within the next 15 years.

The requested funding would support PhilaPort's efforts to improve the road network and enhance access to I-95 and I-76 affecting the Southport Marine Terminal, connectivity to intermodal centers and port facilities, as well as provide sufficient queuing space at processing centers and gate entrances.

These improvements are necessary to ensure the Port of Philadelphia continues in its role as a vital economic engine that sustains working-class jobs that contribute revenues into the local community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me for further information at 215-925-2615 or at dennis.rochford@maritimedelriv.com.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rochford
President

cc: Lisa Hember, Vice President