



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

**JAMES F. KENNEY**  
Mayor

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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:

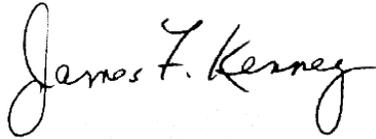
Please accept this letter of support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) Surface Streets Improvements Planning project. PhilaPort requests \$1.2 million in federal grant funding to provide preliminary engineering design services, including environmental clearance, for improvements to the street network serving the Port of Philadelphia. These improvements will: 1) enhance the connectivity of Port facilities; 2) reduce travel times to Interstates I-95 and I-76; and 3) 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.

PhilaPort has invested recently in infrastructure improvements at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals to expand capacity and meet increasing market demand. The Port anticipates the volume of auto cargo to double within the next ten (10) years and container volumes to double within the next fifteen (15) years. The surface transportation network serving the Port is in need of improvement to enhance access to and circulation between port facilities and to safely accommodate these planned increases in truck traffic.

Funding awarded under the U.S. Department of Transportation's grant program would support PhilaPort's efforts, in collaboration with its partners, to: 1) improve the road network enhancing access to I-95/I-76 particularly for the Southport Marine Terminal; 2) increase the capacity of Port access driveways; 3) increase connectivity to intermodal centers and other Port facilities,; and 4) provide sufficient queuing space at processing centers and gate entrances. The enhanced access and increased efficiency of operations will ensure

the Port remains a vital economic engine to the local community. Sustaining working-class jobs generates revenue that will be distributed directly into the local community and economy. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important application, which will provide unparalleled economic benefits for Pennsylvania and the Northeast region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James F. Kenney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

James F. Kenney  
Mayor