
February 22, 2023

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: RAISE 2023 - Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Connector Bridge Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is pleased to support the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) application for funding consideration under the FY 2023 US Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) Connector Bridge project. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the nine-county, bi-state Greater Philadelphia Region, DVRPC works with stakeholders to approve and advance federal transportation infrastructure investment in the region. The PAMT Connector Bridge project is consistent with the vision of DVRPC's Long-Range Plan, *Connections 2050*, for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient region, and with the Long-Range Plan's Delaware Valley Freight Centers Initiative

The requested funding for this project will provide for the construction of a 580 linear foot, two-lane bridge that spans between PAMT and Publicker, a 40-acre site adjacent to PAMT that supports container handling operations. The current pathway between the sites is over utilized, creating excessive congestion, increased truck idling times, and traffic conflicts. The bridge will unlock the Publicker site's capacity for inbound containers and allow it to be a seamless extension of the terminal. The improvement in productivity will provide for a significant reduction in container double handling and increased capacities at both sites that will improve vessel, rail, and truck unload and load turn-times. The project is also projected to reduce in-terminal truck transit by 100 miles per average exchange vessel call. Increased operational efficiencies will reduce both greenhouse gas and criteria air pollutant emissions from cargo handling equipment and truck movements and help to improve air quality on the terminal and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

It has been a continual challenge to secure adequate funding for all the transportation needs and projects in our region. Should the US Department of Transportation select this application

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for RAISE grant funding, DVRPC confirms that we are committed to take necessary steps, as required, to ensure it will stay included in appropriate documents, such as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania and Long-Range Plan. DVRPC will continue to closely coordinate the undertaking of this proposed project with appropriate local freight stakeholders through its longstanding freight advisory committee, the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force.

Not all priority projects are fully funded within the first four years of the TIP due to state and federal funding constraints, and our region has found it increasingly difficult to fund all current TIP projects and to add new projects to the program. If selected for funding, it is PhilaPort's responsibility to identify all supplemental funding needed to ensure that this new TIP project will be fully funded and able to be implemented in a reasonable period of time. PhilaPort will also coordinate with state and local agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), as appropriate.

Targeted freight infrastructure investments, such as Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's PAMT Connector Bridge project, will improve the performance of our region's transportation system, better integrate facilities, and improve freight mobility and efficiency that will sustain and enhance economic and quality of life benefits for residents and businesses. We look forward to your support of this project that is important to our region.

Sincerely,



Ariella Maron
Executive Director

cc: Ryan Mulvey, Director of Government & Public Affairs, Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Michael Carroll, Deputy Managing Director for Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability, City of Philadelphia
Andrew Batson, Acting Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, PennDOT