

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

**RE: Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Connector Bridge Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is to communicate my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) **Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) Connector Bridge Project**.

PhilaPort is requesting funding from RAISE, "Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity" discretionary grant program. If awarded, the funding will be utilized to construct a 580-foot, two lane connector bridge between the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal and the adjacent Publicker site.

The two sites are currently split by the Walt Whitman Bridge right-of-way and connected by a narrow 2 lane pathway. This pathway is used as the main entrance to PAMT, as well as the connection to shuttle cargo between the two sites.

Currently, the pathway is over utilized, creating excessive congestion, increased truck idling times, as well as traffic conflicts. Construction of a Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Connector bridge will unlock the Publicker site's capacity as a viable first point of rest for inbound vessel, rail and truck containers. The improvement in productivity will provide for a significant reduction in container double handling and increased capacities at both sites. The reduction in time of transit has both environmental and cost competitiveness benefits for the port.

More specifically, this project will enhance the connectivity of port facilities, increase road safety within the terminal by saving 100 miles of in-terminal transit per average exchange vessel call, improve freight mobility by reducing turn time by approximately 1.4 hours per call, and improve efficiency by saving nearly 38 hours of equipment run time per call. These benefits will enable PhilaPort to not only handle the demands of today, but also position the port for the expected future growth of the containerized cargo industry.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

*Doise Butts*  
*President IIA Local 1291*