

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in support of the application from the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PhilaPort) to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for its Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) Connector Bridge Project. I urge you to give this project full and fair consideration.

If awarded, I am told 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 two-lane pathway. It is my understanding this pathway is used as the main entrance to PAMT, as well as the connection to shuttle cargo between the two sites.

I am told the pathway is currently 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 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, I am told 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 them for the expected future growth of the containerized cargo industry.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations, we also respectfully request that you keep us informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Senator Casey's staff at (202) 224-6324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator