

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30th, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant Program. This funding would support the "Pier-96 Rehabilitation to Support Port Efficiency and Resiliency (PRoSPER)" project, which will rehabilitate and repurpose Pier-96, a strategically located finger pier constructed in 1918.

Pier-96 lies just north of PhilaPort's main container terminal, the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT). The area surrounding the port is mixed use, offering a variety of port, industrial and retail uses. With a residential neighborhood located less than a mile away, available real estate in the area is scarce and has forced the port to identify creative solutions to increase acreage to support port growth.

By rehabilitating Pier-96, a seven-acre finger pier, the port will gain capacity to accommodate the storage of 119 container chassis and create 417 parking spots for port employees, freeing up valuable lay down space for cargo at PAMT. Creating additional parking spots will also free up two additional lanes to access PAMT and other port facilities. This will increase efficiency and reduce traffic congestion that periodically impacts adjacent residential communities. As part of the project, a shuttle service will be implemented to safely transport terminal employees to and from their workstations, thereby reducing vehicle emissions and removing personal vehicles from port roadways.

In addition to capacity and safety enhancements, the project will also include electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, new guardrails, deck drains and high mast lighting. Restoring Pier-96 to a level of resiliency and functional use will not only improve terminal efficiency at PAMT but will make best use of this ageing yet critically important asset.

I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Fetterman
United States Senator