

1ST DISTRICT
NIKIL SAVAL
SENATE BOX 203001
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3001
717-787-5662

1434 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19122
215-952-3119

1107-09 SOUTH 6TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147
267-668-3550

EMAIL: saval@pasenate.com
FACEBOOK: @SenatorSaval
TWITTER: @SenatorSaval
INSTAGRAM: @SenatorSaval
WEB: www.PASenatorSaval.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

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POLICY

April 29, 2024

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

RE: Pier 96 Rehabilitation to Support Port Efficiency and Resiliency (PRoSPER)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

This letter is to communicate my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) "***Pier-96 Rehabilitation to Support Port Efficiency and Resiliency (PRoSPER)***" INFRA Grant Application.

PhilaPort is requesting funding from INFRA, (the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects program). If awarded, the funding will be utilized to 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), at the intersection of East Oregon and Delaware Avenue. 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 (7) 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 in areas which periodically impact 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikil Saval". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" at the end.

Nikil Saval
State Senator
1st Senatorial District