
August 4, 2023

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

SUBJECT: INFRA 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 US Department of Transportation's 2023 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) federal grant program for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) Connector Bridge project. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia region, DVRPC works with stakeholders to approve and advance federal infrastructure investment that supports the vision of our long-range plan, *Connections 2050*, for an equitable, resilient, and sustainable region. The PAMT Connector Bridge project supports the realization of that vision and aligns with our region'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 at the terminal and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Should the US Department of Transportation select this application for INFRA grant funding, DVRPC will continue to closely coordinate the undertaking of this proposed project with appropriate local freight stakeholders through our longstanding freight advisory committee, the

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Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force. DVRPC will also work with PhilaPort and our stakeholders to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as required. It has been a continual challenge to secure adequate funding for all the transportation needs and projects in our region. PhilaPort, as the project sponsor, will be responsible for identifying the supplemental funding needed to ensure that this TIP project is fully funded for implementation in a reasonable period of time, and will coordinate with state and local agencies, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ariella Maron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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
Meredith Biggica, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, PennDOT