

March 7, 2024

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

SUBJECT: 2024 RAISE – Fueling Our Future: PhilaPort Sustainability Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is pleased to support the Port of Philadelphia's (PhilaPort) application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the planning study of the Fueling Our Future: PhilaPort Sustainability Program. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state, nine county Greater Philadelphia Region, DVRPC works with stakeholders to approve and advance federal transportation infrastructure investment that supports the vision laid out in our Long-Range Plan, *Connections 2050*, for an equitable, resilient, and sustainable region.

With funding, Fueling our Future will serve to guide the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable practices at the Port of Philadelphia. The plan will develop a comprehensive facility-wide program with the principal goals of reducing the Port's carbon footprint, improving terminal resiliency, and furthering economic development in the City of Philadelphia, the Delaware Valley region, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, it will enable PhilaPort to keep pace with industry sustainability trends, boost port competitiveness, retain existing and attract new shippers whose customer base is increasingly interested in green transportation providers, and introduce potential new lines of business and revenue generating opportunities for the Port.

This project will develop a plan that promotes sustainable supply chains, reduces environmental impacts and carbon emissions, and optimizes energy use at Port facilities while supporting planned growth. It will accelerate the adoption of green technologies and upgrading of port infrastructure by leveraging regional advancements as an alternative fuel hub and through the development of an incentive program for the conversion of terminal handling equipment. The plan implementation process will involve local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders in an effort to better develop communications with these groups.

Should the US Department of Transportation select this application for RAISE grant funding, DVRPC confirms that we are committed to take necessary steps, as required, to ensure it will be included in appropriate documents, such as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania and Long-Range Plan. Not all priority projects are fully funded within the first four

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years of the TIP due to state and federal funding constraints. In fact, our region has found it increasingly difficult to fund all current TIP projects and to add new projects to the program, though they may be valuable and effective in improving our transportation network. If selected for funding, PhilaPort, as the project sponsor will be responsible for identifying the supplemental funding needed to ensure that this new TIP project will be fully funded to be implemented in a reasonable period of time. PhilaPort will also coordinate with state and local agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and City of Philadelphia, as appropriate.

Sincerely,



Ariella Maron
Executive Director

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