



International Longshoremen's Association

Local No. 1291

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

RE: Port CONNECT: Creating Overland Connections to Expand Capacity and Throughput Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) Port CONNECT: Creating Overland Connections to Expand Capacity and Throughput Project. PhilaPort is seeking a planning grant from the "Port Infrastructure Development Program" (PIDP) discretionary grant fund.

This pivotal project aims to establish a crucial connector route for overweight and specialized haul trucks commuting between The Bellwether District and the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal. If granted, the funding will play a key role in enhancing the flow of commerce between these indispensable economic centers. The proposed connector route is anticipated to complement over \$4 billion in private investment being made at The Bellwether District, where more than \$1 billion has already been invested. Enhanced access will streamline the transportation of materials and equipment, thereby expediting development and fostering job creation.

The project's scope entails developing a comprehensive network-based approach, which involves studying and implementing improvements along potential connector routes. The planning grant will also allow PhilaPort to evaluate upgrades for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal gate to mitigate disruptions during construction and accommodate future operational expansion.

This project holds the promise of generating hundreds of family-sustaining union jobs for residents across the Philadelphia region, both at PhilaPort and The Bellwether District, where over 20,000 union construction jobs are projected. Ensuring investment in the Port of Philadelphia is imperative to fortify its capacity to meet both current demands and the projected exponential growth of the containerized cargo industry. I implore you to give this vital project your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Boise Butler
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