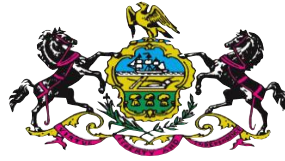


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POLICY

May 8, 2024

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 request that you consider funding the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) Connector Project, Port CONNECT: Creating Overland Connections to Expand Capacity and Throughput Project. PhilaPort is seeking a planning grant under the "Port Infrastructure Development Program" (PIDP). This project is a critical initiative that once developed, will enhance connections between The Bellwether District and the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, significantly improving the movement of commerce between these two economic hubs.

By creating a designated route for oversized and specialized haul trucks, the PhilaPort Connector Project is expected to leverage over \$4 billion in private investment being made at The Bellwether District, where more than \$1 billion has already been invested. Improved access will streamline the transportation of materials and equipment, expediting development in the city of Philadelphia and creating new jobs in the region. The planning grant will allow PhilaPort to take a comprehensive, network-based approach to investigate and design improvements along potential routes being explored for the connector.

Additionally, the project will assess upgrades for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal gate to minimize disruptions during construction and to accommodate future operational growth as The Bellwether District expands. The planning project aims to optimize traffic flow at the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal gate by designing improvements that ensure the efficient movement of special haul trucks without causing congestion for existing north-south container traffic.

Funding the PhilaPort's planning grant request would provide a strategic investment in Philadelphia's future infrastructure needs. By facilitating the efficient movement of goods and materials between PhilaPort and The Bellwether District, we will unlock the full economic potential of our city and greater region.

Thank you for your consideration of PhilaPort's PIDP planning grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikil Saval".

Nikil Saval
State Senator
1st Senatorial District