

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Judith S. Kaleta  
Acting Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: RAISE 2025: South Philadelphia Multimodal Freight Transportation Integration Plan

Dear Acting Secretary Kaleta,

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is pleased to support the Port of Philadelphia's (PhilaPort) joint application with Hilco Redevelopment Partners for funding through the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the South Philadelphia Multimodal Freight Transportation Integration Plan project. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state, nine county 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 requested funding for this project will provide for planning and design of a multimodal freight network connecting the Bellwether District, Packer Marine Terminal, the PhilaPort Distribution Center, and other economic development assets in South Philadelphia. The project will study ingress and egress at the main Packer Marine Terminal gate and aims to identify corridors that will reduce congestion between terminals on Old Delaware Avenue and reduce the burden of truck traffic on residents, workers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and sports complex visitors during peak operations. Through a comprehensive and inclusive planning process, the identification of freight corridors can build a key network connection between commerce hubs, increase the safety and efficiency of the surrounding surface street network, and build upon years of ongoing coordinated resiliency and sustainability efforts in the Lower South area of Philadelphia.

Should USDOT 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 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,

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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. The project sponsor should also coordinate with state and local agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and City of Philadelphia, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ariella Maron".

Ariella Maron  
Executive Director

AM:ks