



Councilmember Mark F. Squilla

PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL - 1st District

ROOM 332, CITY HALL
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-3458 or 3459
Fax No. (215) 686-1931
Email: mark.squilla@phila.gov

COMMITTEES
Chair
Commerce and Economic Development

MEMBER
Education
Ethics

MEMBER cont.
Fiscal Stability
Global Opportunities
Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless
Law and Government
Legislative Oversight
Licenses and Inspections

MEMBER cont.
Public Property and Public Works
Rules
Streets and Services
Technology and Information Services
Transportation and Public Utilities
Whole

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary Designate
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington D.C. 20590

RE: South Philadelphia Multimodal Freight Transportation Integration Plan

Dear Secretary Designate:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY25 RAISE program. PhilaPort in coordination with Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP) is requesting \$3,325,000, which will enable an innovative public-private partnership to plan and design freight connections between the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal and the Bellwether District, a 1300-acre redevelopment site managed by HRP.

For background, PhilaPort handled 7.5 million metric tons of cargo in 2024, generating an estimated \$1.65 billion in economic impact supporting 12,000 jobs. Recognized as one of the fastest growing ports in the country, Container volumes are projected to nearly double over the next 15 years, supporting an additional 9,000 direct jobs and over 10,000 induced/indirect jobs by 2040.

The Bellwether District, a hub for logistics, e-commerce, and life sciences, is projected to attract \$4 billion in private investment and create over 10,000 new jobs. With the development of over 14 million square feet of industrial and innovation facilities, roadway access and connectivity between the Bellwether District and the port is essential. Maintaining a balance between economic development and the safety of all roadway users and adjacent communities is paramount to the project's long-term success.

I support this vital project as a crucial first step in addressing challenges related to aging infrastructure, freight connectivity, traffic bottlenecks, and community access to economic opportunities. By exploring innovative ways to connect these two major economic hubs, this project will help ensure the future of economic growth for Philadelphia, the Commonwealth and region as a whole.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully,

Mark F. Squilla
Councilmember, First District