

December 12, 2016

Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

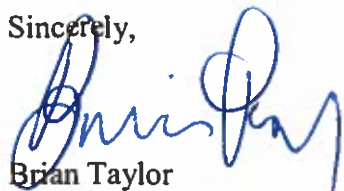
On behalf of the Jacksonville Port Authority I am pleased to support the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE II) grant. I am also voicing our support for the *Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program*, submitted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This project represents job growth, as well as the opportunity for increased freight capacity to accommodate current and future projected growth for the Jacksonville Port and ports along the east coast of Florida.

The *Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program* project expands and upgrades the transportation network for the movement of freight. The project works to alleviate a single point of congestion for freight movement throughout the southeastern United States, thus allowing for increased productivity and modern controls to help safety. This project helps the flow of freight today and prepares northeast Florida for the post-Panamax expansion of port activity. It also prepares the infrastructure for the future North Jacksonville Rail Corridor Project.

Upgrading the transportation infrastructure at this location is critical to our business in that it allows us to offer customers a more efficient and cost effective way to move their cargo through northeast Florida. This project is also a perfect complement to the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility recently completed by JAXPORT.

The *Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program* project, by working collaboratively with the City of Jacksonville, Florida Department of Transportation, Freight Rail, and public and private businesses, will improve the transportation system not just for Jacksonville but for the entire southeastern United States. JAXPORT fully endorses this project.

Sincerely,



Brian Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer