



Ocean Highway & Port Authority

Nassau County

December 7, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the Ocean Highway and Port Authority and the Port of Fernandina, 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, the *Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program*, submitted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This project represents job growth, opportunity and increased freight capacity to accommodate current and future projected growth for Florida's seaport system.

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 Florida for the post Panamax expansion of port activity.

Upgrading the transportation infrastructure at this location is critical to our business. The rail improvements contemplated by this project, including rail crossing and signalization will benefit all of Northeast Florida by streamlining rail freight movements, creating efficiencies and moving more cargo onto rail allowing our infrastructure to absorb future freight growth.

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 Florida but for the entire southeastern United States. Again, I am in full support of this project.

Sincerely;

Danny Fullwood
Chairman of the Board
Ocean Highway and Port Authority