December 2, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is seeking an award of FASTLANE discretionary funds for its Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program. FDOT has been a long-time member of the Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC), a national group dedicated to improving our nation’s freight infrastructure.

If awarded, FDOT, along with its partner the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), will use the funds from this grant to expand and upgrade the transportation network for the movement of freight. According to FDOT, the project will alleviate a single point of congestion for freight movement throughout the southeastern United States, helping the flow of freight immediately and preparing northeast Florida for the Post-Panamax expansion of port activity. The program will also help prepare the infrastructure for the future North Rail Corridor Project planned by FDOT.

The Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program will result in job growth, opportunity and increase freight capacity to accommodate current and future project growth for both the Jacksonville Port and all the ports along the east coast of Florida. According to FDOT, upon completion, the project will improve the transportation system not just for Jacksonville and Florida but also for the entire southeastern United States.

As an organization, we support investments in freight infrastructure. We hope you’ll consider FDOT’s Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program grant application. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elaine Nessle
Executive Director