



Downtown Investment Authority

November 28, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the City of Jacksonville's Downtown Investment 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) grant, the *Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program*, submitted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA). This project represents job growth, opportunity and increased freight capacity to accommodate current and future projected growth for the Jacksonville Port and all the 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 increase 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 Rail Corridor Project.

The Downtown Investment Authority is the Economic Development Agency for Downtown Jacksonville and the Community Redevelopment Agency for Downtown's Community Redevelopment Areas. Upgrading the transportation infrastructure at this location is critical to furthering our job creation efforts, and advances our charge to promote economic development in Downtown and Jacksonville as a whole.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aundra C. Wallace'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Aundra' being the most prominent.

Aundra Wallace
Chief Executive Officer