



Robert M. Clements
Chairman and CEO

November 18, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of EverBank Financial Corporation, 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 (FASTLANEII) 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 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 Rail Corridor Project.

Upgrading the transportation infrastructure at this location is critical to our business. As a major employer in Jacksonville, EverBank strongly supports efforts to improve local and intercity transportation options in our hometown. Our associates and business partners rely on the availability of convenient, efficient transportation options. We believe a vibrant downtown Jacksonville, connected to the region and the rest of the country with modern, intermodal transportation infrastructure is vital to the future economic success of Northeast Florida.

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. Again, I am in full support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Clements". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Robert M. Clements
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer