



The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

*Mayor Susan Haynie
Chairperson*

December 12, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), 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 State and all of the southeastern United States. I have personally had the opportunity and pleasure to work with the transportation community in northeast Florida for a number of years. Each and every time they have brought forward innovative ideas and results which improve the transportation system and quality of life for the residents of the region. I offer to you this letter of support without reservation, the partnership between the local transportation community and the Florida DOT is excellent and on many occasions they have collaborated to deliver remarkable outcomes. It because of this track record of success and enviable partnership that I fully support this project.

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,

Carl J. Mikyska
Executive Director

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