



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JIM BOXOLD
SECRETARY

December 15, 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 Florida Department of Transportation, I am pleased to support *Phase II* of the *North Florida Freight Rail Enhancement Program* application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) FASTLANE II grant. As the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, the *North Florida Freight Rail Enhancement Program* represents job growth and increased freight capacity to accommodate current and future growth of the Port of Jacksonville and all ports along Florida's east coast.

Phase II of the *North Florida Freight Rail Enhancement Program* 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.

This project builds on other joint projects between the City of Jacksonville, Florida Department of Transportation, and private business over the past decade to keep northeast Florida competitive and provide access to all forms of reliable and safe transportation.

This project will assure that we can focus on growing jobs, access to public and private forms of transportation and maximize our transportation infrastructure for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Boxold".

Jim Boxold
Secretary