



December 12, 2016

Port Canaveral

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

Port Everglades

Port of Fernandina

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Port of Fort Pierce

On behalf of the Florida Ports Council, 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 *North Florida Freight Rail Program (Phase II)*, 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 State of Florida, JAXPORT, and all the ports along the east coast of Florida.

JAXPORT

Port of Key West

Port Manatee

The *North Florida Freight Rail Program (Phase II)* 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. Lastly, it prepares the infrastructure for the future North Area/JIA Corridor Future Rail project (Phase III), which is now programmed to begin its NEPA documentation July 2017 through FDOT funding.

PortMiami

Port of Palm Beach

Port Panama City

The *North Florida Freight Rail Program (Phase II)* 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.

Port of Pensacola

Port of St. Petersburg

Sincerely,

Port of Port St. Joe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Wheeler".

Port Tampa Bay

Doug Wheeler, President and CEO
Florida Ports Council