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Chief Executive Officer

November 16, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We are honored to be a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant submitted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The JTA is on a mission to improve northeast Florida's economy, environment and quality of life by providing safe, reliable and efficient multimodal transportation services and facilities. This will certainly aid in the accomplishment of this mission.

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 the JTA and the community that we serve. This project will, upon full completion, tie directly into the JTA's new Regional Transportation Center, giving access to all modes of public and private transportation at a central hub.

The *Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program* project, by working collaboratively with the City of Jacksonville, FDOT, Freight Rail, and public and private businesses, will improve the transportation system not just for Jacksonville but for the entire southeastern United States. I respectfully request your consideration and support to fully fund this FASTLANE grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr.", is written over a white background.

Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr.
Chief Executive Officer

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