



Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti
Superintendent

1701 Prudential Drive | Jacksonville, FL 32207
904.390.2115 | Fax 904.390.2586
vittin@duvalschools.org | www.duvalschools.org

November 16, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of Duval County Public Schools, 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) 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 due to numerous traffic jams in the area that lead to inefficiencies with bus transportation and parent drop offs and pickups in the San Marco area.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "N. Vitti".

Nikolai P. Vitti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Duval County Public Schools