Dear Secretary Foxx,

Please accept this letter of support for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s FASTLANE II Grant program.

The Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program project FASTLANE II, will add 7,000 ft. of new track, modernize manual air switches to digital switches, upgrade the signaling and add 5.5 miles of Centralized Traffic Control (CTC). CTC consists of a centralized train dispatcher’s office that controls railroad interlocking and traffic flows in the rail system designated as CTC territory which is now being handled by local signal operators.

This FDOT/JTA project meets all categories of FASTLANE I and II, as it also includes more efficient freight movement in Jacksonville by reducing congestion and blockage which brings Downtown to a complete halt. This project will not only benefit Northeast Florida, but all the states that do freight and logistics business via rail with in the State of Florida.

As a member of the Florida Senate’s Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations committee, I am excited to see the opportunity that Northeast Florida Freight Rail Program has created by FASTLANE I and look forwarded to FASTLANE II.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6