



December 12, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of Port Tampa Bay, Florida's largest seaport, 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). This project represents job growth, opportunity and increased freight capacity to accommodate current and future projected growth for Florida's seaport system.

The *Northeast Florida Freight and 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 Florida for the post Panamax expansion of port activity.

Upgrading the transportation infrastructure at this location will enhance the flow of commerce by rail throughout our state. The Florida Department of Transportation has been a tremendous strategic partner of Florida's seaport system, recognizing that not only is investment in on-port infrastructure critical, but also investment in the surface infrastructure leading in and out of ports to allow for the efficient delivery of cargo to and from port terminals. We have seen the benefits of this type of investment in Tampa in legacy projects that will deliver generational benefits.

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 Florida but for the entire southeastern United States. Again, I am in full support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Paul Anderson'.

A. Paul Anderson,
Port President and CEO