



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

December 9, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

RE: Florida Department of Transportation - USDOT - FASTLANE II

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to eliminate a significant chokepoint at Beaver Street Interchange where the Florida East Coast Railway, Norfolk Southern and CSX converge operations for their freight exchanges. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

In conjunction with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, FDOT's Northeast Florida Freight Rail Enhancement Program Phase II will, build upon the federal and state investment made in Phase I's construction of the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility at Dames Point, which facilitates the direct transfer of containers between vessels and trains, thereby speeding up the shipment process and reducing the number of trucks on the road. If funded for Phase II, they will eliminate this chokepoint that prevents future growth by hindering freight movement throughout the southeastern United States. Additionally, the chokepoint has created major safety issues by creating vehicle traffic jams that obstruct access to the area's Level 1 Trauma Center. By constructing a new third parallel track at the interchange, along with installing new turnouts and crossovers with power switches, this project will significantly increase the flow of freight in the state of Florida and alleviate interstate and downtown traffic congestion.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

BN/jm

CC: Ms. Katie Ross, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson